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[SIXPENCE { WITH SUPPLEMENT GRATIS.

THE GOLD OF CALIFORNIA.

THE Dorado of the early Spanish and English adventurers turns out to have been no fable. It was not the mere vision of their too brilliant and excitable imaginations. It was a palpable reality. The golden region exists—not in the unsubstantial air, in the Atlantis of Plato, or in the Utopia of Sir Thomas More; but in a country to which ships can sail, and to which living men of this every-day world can resort, and pick up the treasure, that smiles at their feet, and woos them to clutch it. California the Golden is the bright particular spot on the Earth's surface to which all men's attention is directed. It is a new Holy Land for the votaries of Mammon: pilgrims and devotees resort to it from the remotest corners of the globe. The discovery of its amazing wealth is the crowning event in a year of wonders. The year 1848 began in distress and gloom, and lived the greater part of its life amid turmoil and commotion; but it died amid visions of returning peace, reviving confidence, and illimitable riches. A halo of aurean splendour surrounds its memory. It was thought to have accomplished revolutions enough when it changed the political aspect of Europe; but political revolutions, if the accounts received from America are but half true, were the least important of its deeds. A still greater revolution was destined to be commenced within its time—a golden revolution which shall alter the measure of value throughout the civilised world—make the poor

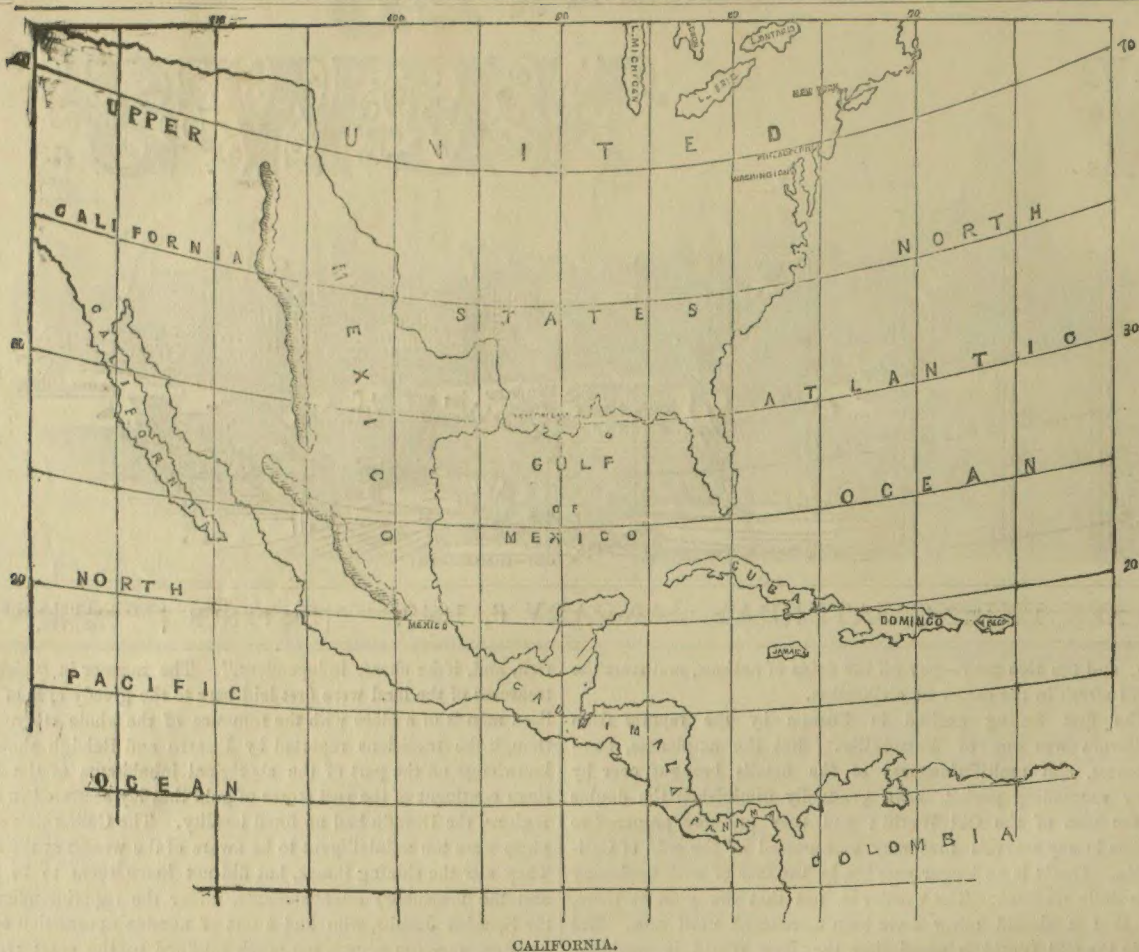
rich, and the rich poor—pay off the debts of nations, and start the world afresh in the career of civilisation.

The first feeling excited in Europe by the reports from California was one of incredulity. But the amplexness, completeness, and multifariousness of the details brought over by every succeeding packet, have gradually diminished the doubts of the men of the Old World; and they are now prepared to believe in any marvels that may be reported of the gold of California. Doubt is no longer possible, in the face of such testimony as is daily received. The wonder is, not that the gold is there, but that it should never have been discovered until now. But while the Old World is wondering, the New World is working. The Anglo-Americans have laid hands upon the magnificent prey. California swarms with treasure-seekers; and there is not a man among them that does not find what he seeks. "The sands of the Pactolus," says a letter from San Blas, on the Gulf of California, "have long ceased to be golden; the mines of Mexico hardly pay the working of them; but in the bed and along the banks of the Sacramento, the virgin ore waits but to be gathered in an abundance at present not to be estimated. Lumps of pure gold have been picked up, each large enough to make a diadem. The man who in the morning possessed no property but his labour, no instrument but his unassisted hands, before night saw himself the owner of more wealth than years of labour in any other country of the world could have procured him, and in a few days he became

rich, and, if he chose, independent." The manner in which the treasures of the land were first laid bare to the greedy eyes of civilised men is of a piece with the romance of the whole story. Although the traditions reported by Pizarro and Raleigh showed a knowledge on the part of the aboriginal inhabitants of the American continent of the vast stores of gold that lay scattered in some regions, the Dorado had no fixed locality. The Californian aborigines were too unintelligent to be aware of the wealth at their feet. They saw the shining lumps, but did not know them to be gold; and the missionary establishments, under the superintendence of the Spanish Jesuits, who had a sort of nominal possession of the country, were too scanty, too much confined to the coast regions, and too unenterprising, to light on such good fortune. It remained for the industry of the Anglo-American race to discover and to appropriate the treasure. Wherever Brother Jonathan penetrates, he sets to work.

In the course of the winter of 1847-48, a Captain Sutter, one of the emigrants from the United States, or more probably from the adjacent country of Oregon, built a saw-mill on the south branch of the Sacramento river, known as the American Fork, and constructed a mill-race and dam to supply it. "But when it was completed," says an account in an American journal, "it was found that the 'tail race,' or channel whereby the water used to turn the mill is discharged, was too small. To economise time and trouble, the wheel was 'thrown out of gear,' and the whole body of water in





the 'dam' passed through the 'race.' The effect of this current was to make the channel wider and deeper; but it had also an additional effect, never contemplated by the constructor, that of disintegrating the soil, and disengaging several large grains of pure gold. These were seen and recognised soon after by Captain Sutter, to whom they had been pointed out by Mr. Marshall, the contractor for building the mill in question. It is supposed that in the interval that elapsed between this fortunate discovery and its publicity, both gentlemen contrived to amass a very considerable quantity of the precious metal. The secret was, however, soon discovered. Within a few months, hundreds of men, Indian and white, were occupied in exploring the circumjacent country. In the beds of the tributary streams, on the shores of the Sacramento river, in the ravines of the mountain torrents, and actually forming 'part and parcel' of the soil of the plains, gold was found in the most extraordinary abundance and of the finest quality. Some of this gold was 'coarse,' that is to say, in large grains mixed with particles of earth; some of it was combined with quartz, in the manner of laminae or plates, while some of it again was mixed with coarse gravel; but the larger proportion of it was 'virgin,' in pure grains or lumps, which varied in weight from one pennyweight to four ounces, or a quarter of a pound each." At present (says a letter from Monterey, the remarkable details of which give a more vivid idea of the golden mania than any language we could employ)

The people are running over the country and picking it out of the earth here and there, just as a thousand hogs, let loose in a forest, would root up ground-nuts. Some get eight or ten ounces a day, and the least active one or two. They make the most who employ the wild Indians to hunt for them. There is one man who has sixty Indians in his employ; his profits are a dollar a minute. The wild Indians know nothing of its value, and wonder what the pale-faces want to do with it; they will give an ounce of it for the same weight of coined silver, or a thimbleful of glass beads, or a glass of grog; and white men themselves often give an ounce of it, which is worth, at our Mint, 18 dollars or more, for a bottle of brandy, a box of soda powders, or a plug of tobacco. As to the quantity which the diggers get, take a few facts as evidence:—I know seven men, who worked seven weeks and two days, Sundays excepted, on Feather River; they employed on an average 50 Indians, and got out in these seven weeks and two days 275 pounds of pure gold. I know the men and have seen the gold, and know what they state to be a fact; so stick a pin there. I know ten other men who worked ten days in company, employed no Indians, and averaged in those ten days 1500 dollars each; so stick another pin there. I know another man, who got out of a basin in a rock, not larger than a washbowl, 2½ lb. of gold in 15 minutes; so stick another pin there. Not one of these statements would I believe did I not know the men personally, and know them to be plain matter-of-fact men—men who open a vein of gold just as coolly as you would a potato hill.

Thus far the gold has been obtained in the most primitive manner, by washing the earth in tin pans, wooden bowls, Indian baskets, &c. The average, I am told, has been sixteen dollars per day for each man engaged, and the deeper the soil is dug the richer it becomes. One man obtained over thirty dollars in one washing—say fifteen minutes. I was told by an old miner that not more than one-half of the gold is secured in the present rude, careless way of working. With a proper machine, and the use of quicksilver, double the amount could be taken from the same soil. The largest amount taken by one person in one day was 200 dollars. The pieces are of an extraordinary size, the largest weighing half an ounce. The mountains have been explored on every side, and gold found in every creek. It is the opinion of all that 30,000 or 40,000 persons could be profitably employed on the ground now explored. Nor is gold the only mineral discovered here. Platina has been found in one place in some considerable quantity; and very extensive mines of silver ore have recently been discovered within five miles of the saw-mill, and are said to be very rich. Iron is also abundant, and will pay about 85 per cent.

The richness of the soil in the immediate neighbourhood of the mines is most astonishing. Farms can be made in every direction that will feed all the miners that can be employed. The climate is found to be very healthy, and free from the chilly winds that hover around the sea-coast. The granite of the mountains is said to be equal to the celebrated Quincy, and a beautiful quarry of marble has been discovered on the Consummy river, specimens of which will, before many years, adorn the fronts of public buildings in your flourishing city.

"The cry is still they come!" While writing this, two men have just arrived from a valley some five or six miles distant, bringing with them 950 dollars' worth of gold, obtained in five days.

I have heard from one of our citizens who has been at the Gold Placero a few weeks, that he had collected 1500 dollars' worth of the "root of evil," and was still averaging 100 dollars a day. Another gent, wife, and boy, collected 500 dollars' worth in one day. Another, still, who shut up his hotel here some five or six weeks since, has returned with 2200 dollars in pure virgin gold, collected by his own exertions, with no other aid than a spade, pick, and Indian basket.

As near as I can ascertain, there are now about 2000 persons engaged, and the roads leading to the mines are thronged with people and wagons. The implements used are shovels, picks, tin pans, wooden bowls, and Indian baskets. From one to nine ounces of pure virgin gold per day is gathered by every man who performs the requisite labour. The mountains have been explored for about 40 miles, and gold has been found in great abundance in almost every part of them. A gentleman informed me that he had spent some time in exploring the country, and had cut 52 holes with his butcher's knife in different places, and had found gold in every one.

Several extensive silver mines have been discovered, but very little attention is paid to them now. Immense beds of iron ore of superior quality, yielding 85 to 90 per cent., have also been found near the American Fork.

As a necessary consequence of this astounding plentifulness of gold, the price of all commodities in California has risen enormously. Spades and shovels sell for 9 and 10 dollars; blankets and scrapes, which cost 3 and 4 dollars, are selling for 45 and 50 dollars; flour, 60 dols. per barrel; sugar, 1 dol. per lb.; and coffee, 2 dols. per lb. Clothing of all kinds is very high. Horses, which formerly sold for 20 or 25 dols., now command from 100 to 200 dols. Labour, of course, shares in the universal rise. When a man can dig gold, and enrich himself for life in a few months, it is not to be expected that he will renounce the temptation, and render himself useful to his fellows by domestic or other service, except at a price

measured by the abundance of gold and the scarcity of hands. A negro waiter at the hotel at San Francisco receives a salary of 1700 dollars per annum. Other service is paid in the same proportion; but, generally, service is not to be obtained. All ranks and conditions of men have been equalised. Gold has done what it was supposed death alone could do. It has brought all men to one level. One passion has taken possession of men's minds, and—

All hearts

Are chilled into a selfish prayer for gold.

A letter from New York, dated the 12th of December, states that twenty-four vessels laden with passengers, all bound for the gold country, sailed within three weeks from that port, and that such was the rush of emigrants that the agents of one vessel were obliged to refuse passage to no less than seven hundred applicants. Overland the rushing swarms are equally numerous, and Europe will soon contribute her full share to the swelling tide of the golden emigration.

But this fever will in due time subside. The very superabundance of the gold will remedy the evil. The precious metal will fall in value all over the world. In California itself, the great seat and centre of the golden madness, it has already fallen; for gold is only precious because it is the means of procuring the real wealth of food, shelter, clothing, and the luxuries and comforts of life. The intelligent author of "The Shipwreck of the *Juno*" relates that he and a score of companions were exposed for many days upon the masts and rigging of a water-logged ship, in the glare of a burning sun, without food, except a very small quantity of bread, and without drink, but such as the chance and scanty rain afforded. The Captain having fallen a victim to his terrible sufferings and privation, his widow came into possession of a large sum in gold, and offered the whole of it for a small crust. The owner of the crust would not be tempted. It was worth to him, in his situation, all the gold of California itself. It was life; and the gold, without it, would have been but a splendid death. Gorgeous, therefore, as are the stories that come to us from California, we must remember that gold is not of itself real wealth under all possible circumstances, and that it is chiefly as the representative of more substantial wealth that it has its value among men. Unless, therefore, more productive work be done, unless more food be grown, more cloth manufactured, more industry employed upon the essential arts of life, the discovery of gold will be but of trifling advantage to the world.

There is scarcely room to doubt, however, that such will be the result. The gold is obtainable in such abundance as to justify the belief that it will have an immense if not immediate effect upon the gold markets of Europe, and that Great Britain, as the chief commercial country of the world, will be the first to feel it. A great impetus to our manufactures cannot fail to be among the first results. A rise in the price of all commodities, and of labour at the same time, will speedily follow. Creditors will suffer; debtors will be enabled to pay their debts in full at half the cost of the present day; annuitants and persons of fixed incomes will be impoverished; but all who depend for their subsistence upon their skill, talent, and industry will be enabled to improve their condition. The public liabilities will be, not theoretically, perhaps, but practically, lightened. The great burden of 28 millions annually, which we pay as the interest of our stupendous debt, will press with but half its weight upon the energies of the people, and trade and commerce will take a start unrivalled in the history of the world.

All this is, however, upon the supposition that the accounts from California are not greatly exaggerated. If gold to the value of twenty millions sterling lies on or under the soil of California, it will be a great prize to the finders. It will justify much wonder—perhaps all that has been expressed; but if the supply be not more than four, five, or even twenty-fold as abundant, the consequences upon the trade and social condition of Europe are not likely to be so extensive as those upon which we have speculated in the foregoing sentences. It will doubtless take some time before the real amount of the mineral wealth of California can be correctly estimated. In the meantime, nothing reported of it will cause surprise; and the eager multitude of all nations will rush to share the prize, such as it is, and such as it may be.

THE GOLD DISCOVERIES IN CALIFORNIA.

The following extract from a private letter, dated New York, Dec. 12, 1848, conveys something like a definite idea of those extraordinary discoveries, the accounts respecting which have been so authentically confirmed:—"There is sufficient information in this city to warrant the conjecture that, by the 1st of March, we shall receive three millions, and after that time at least one million a month. You will understand that the surface only of the ground in the valley of Sacramento has been explored; it is possible, therefore, that large mines of mineral wealth may be found in the mountains. This would be to be deplored, as it would turn the whole country of California to the mines, instead of pursuing the peaceful occupation of agriculture and commerce. The effect of all this gold coming into our market will be to turn the exchanges in our favour, and we should keep them so, unless the Americans, not profiting by the experience of '35 and '36, should again import more goods than they can pay for. If this turn out to be the *El Dorado*, what effect is it

going to have on the monetary affairs of England? That is the question which every one now asks his neighbour." The *Daily News* states that from various facts that have come to their knowledge, the gold-finding mania has extended itself to this side of the Atlantic, and emigrants are eagerly looking towards the land of promise. From one such correspondent they have received the following pithy query:—"Mr. Editor.—Please to give your readers an idea of the cheapest and best way to California.—A CONSTANT READER." In reply to this inquiry the editor of that journal writes:—"We believe we may state that the speediest way of getting to California from this country is by the West India mail steamers, which are in monthly communication with Chagres, on the Isthmus of Darien, thence across to Panama. The United States have established a line of packets between Panama and San Francisco, the first of which is advertised to start from the former place this day (Jan. 1). It is reckoned that this voyage along the Pacific coast of the Americas will occupy 60 days. From the United States there are four routes:—1st. That from New Orleans to Panama, as above. 2nd. That taken by the emigrant column to Oregon, namely, from St. Louis, in Missouri, along the Platte River "bottom," across the south pass of the Rocky Mountains, and over the Salt Plain that lies between the western side of this great range and the Colorado river in California Alta. This journey is undertaken in caravans of forty or fifty waggon, and occupies about four months. 3rd. From Louisiana to Mexico, through Texas; but that road is reckoned very unsafe, as it is used chiefly by horse-copers—half-bred Mexicans—and slave-dealers. 4th. Along the seaboard of the entire continent of America—north and south, east and west—that is from New York to Cape Horn, and from Cape Horn to the Bay of San Francisco, a voyage of 16,000 miles, and which it would take five months to perform."

At San Francisco, at the end of September, a meeting was held for the purpose of devising means to secure a fixed value to gold dust, and to ensure its adoption, in the present scarcity of coin, as a circulating medium in the ordinary transaction of business, at sixteen dollars an ounce.

The following resolutions were adopted:—

"That unless the citizens of California sustain the price of gold at home, it must depreciate abroad. That they look upon every measure calculated to reduce the price of gold as injurious to the best interests of the country. That the citizens of San Francisco will unite in establishing gold dust as a currency, at 16 dols. per ounce. That the merchant who will receive gold dust at 16 dols. per ounce, in payment of dues, shall be worthy of the patronage of the public."

The following is a letter from San Francisco, dated Oct. 12:—"I have little to add to my last, containing a full note of sales to date. I am selling off slowly the heavy part of my cargo, viz. brown shirting, ticks, kramlins, stripes, ducks, Russia sheeting, hardware, &c. All these articles are wanted. The attention of the whole population is entirely devoted to the gold region. They are going to and fro continually, taking up goods, and bringing down gold dust in payment for their purchases. Much sickness prevails, and many die, as much from want of medical attendance and good nursing as from disease; but the truth is, that they care nothing for comfort, and submit to every privation. You may believe they are so entirely absorbed by the mania for gold, that the most extravagant reports of the abundance of gold on the Sacramento—it is to be had for digging. Some dig in the water, others in what are called 'dry diggings'—but all are successful, and value money but little. Packages of goods are exposed for days, for want of room and labourers to store them; but this is attended with but little, if any, risk, owing to the general good-conduct of the people. Since I have been here I have not heard of a single breach of the peace. I hope to close my business in a month, and by that time the rainy season will probably drive sailors down to the port—at present they are not to be had. I do not think much change will take place in prices for articles particularly wanted, unless the supply should be very heavy. The emigration will be large, and their wants must be supplied. Pork has been sold, to arrive from Valparaiso, at sixty dollars per barrel. After I despatch the ship from Valparaiso, I shall return here and establish myself in a general commission business, in connexion with the two young gentlemen."

A correspondent from New York says:—"The number of vessels bound round Cape Horn for San Francisco is increasing, owing, no doubt, to the desire many now have to take that route in preference to the Isthmus. The doubt which 'gives us pause' is as to the conveyance across the Isthmus. It is supposed, from the statements made at the last meeting of the British West India Steam Navigation Company, that it has laid out a considerable sum of money upon a road in New Granada, and that a large quantity of vehicles were sent out recently to ply upon it. Here we are told that Chagres is a mere negro village; that a night passed there causes certain death to a white; that the navigation of the river up the Cruces, about 42 miles, is by canoes through a stream literally bordered with snakes and alligators; that from Cruces to Panama the route is mountainous and full of danger, to be traversed only with mules; and that Panama, though quite a respectable city, is already crowded by a band of six thousand emigrants, who do not know how they are to get up the coast."

In proof of the statement that the "gold mania" has begun to operate in this country, we may mention that within the last few days a Californian expedition has left Greenock, a number of "navies" accompanying it, armed with a due supply of spades and smelting-pots.

THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES AT WINDSOR CASTLE.

SHAKESPEARE'S play, "The Merchant of Venice," was performed, by command, in the Castle, on Thursday evening, Dec. 23, 1848. The stage for the performance was erected in the Rubens Room.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Kent, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Royal suite in waiting, sat on a raised platform in the centre of the apartment. The other guests honoured with invitations to the entertainment were seated on either side, on seats of crimson satin, damask, and gold. The following was the programme of the Royal entertainment, which commenced at eight o'clock:—

"Her Majesty's servants will perform at Windsor Castle, on Thursday, Dec. 23, Shakspeare's play of

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

Duke of Venice	Mr Diddear
Antonio (the Merchant of Venice)	Mr Rogers
Bassanio (his Friend)	Mr A. Wigan
Salanio	Mr Boyce
Salanio (Friends to Antonio and Bassanio)	Mr Conway
Gratiano	Mr Webster
Lorenzo (in love with Jessica)	Mr Leigh Murray
Shylock (a Jew)	Mr Charles Kean
Tubal (a Jew, his Friend)	Mr Howe
Lancelot Gobbo (a Clown, Servant to Shylock)	Mr Keeley
Old Gobbo (Father to Lancelot)	Mr Addison
Leonardo (Servant to Bassanio)	Mr Field
Balthazar	Mr Clarke
Stephano (Servants to Portia)	Mr Coe
Portia (a rich Heiress)	Mrs Charles Kean
Nerissa (her Waiting-maid)	Mrs Keeley
Jessica (Daughter to Shylock)	Mrs Compton (late Miss Emmeline Montague)

Director Mr Charles Kean
Assistant-Director Mr George Ellis
Prompter and Stage Manager Mr Frederick Webster

"The theatre arranged and the scenery painted by Mr. Thomas Grieve."

Her Majesty's private band attended in an ante-room. The company consisted of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, Lord John Russell, the Marquis of Breadalbane, the Earl and Countess Grey, the Earl of Liverpool, Viscount Canning, Lady Fanny Howard, Baroness de Speth, the Countess of Mansfield, and the (two) Ladies Murray, Lord and Lady Ruthven, Dowager Lady Lytton, Miss Pole Carew, the Right Hon. Henry and Mrs. Labouchere, the Right Hon. Sir William Fremantle, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. G. E. Anson, Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Charles and Mrs. Phipps, Miss Bathurst, Sir George and Lady Couper, Miss Couper, Lady Isabella Wemyss, Colonel and Mrs. Malcolm, the Dean of Windsor and Lady Charlotte Neville Grenville, the (two) Misses Neville Grenville, the Rev. Frederick Anson, the Provost of Eton and the Hon. Mrs. Hodgson, the Rev. Dr. Hawtrey, Dr. Meyer, Mr. Glover, the Field Officer-in-Waiting of the 2d Life Guards (Colonel McDonnell), the Field Officer-in-Waiting of the Coldstream Guards (Colonel Paget).

[The preceding illustration—the Trial Scene in the "Merchant of Venice"—is from a drawing by Mr. E. H. Wehnert.]

MESSRS. JONES LOYD AND CO., THE BANKERS, have issued, from their place of business at Manchester, a circular, in which they say:—"We think it right to inform you that we have ceased to act as bankers at Manchester, from the 26th Dec. inst. The business hitherto carried on by us will be continued by our Mr. Edward Lloyd, jun., in conjunction with Mr. William Entwistle, Mr. Henry Bury, and Mr. Thomas B. Jervis, as our successors, under the new firm of "Lloyd, Entwistle, Bury, and Jervis." We gladly avail ourselves of this opportunity to make our grateful acknowledgments of the uniform kindness and confidence which, through a long period of years, we have experienced from the commercial community and the inhabitants generally of Manchester and its neighbourhood; and we trust the same kind encouragement will be extended to our successors, in whose progressive prosperity we shall always feel the most lively interest.—We are, your faithful servants, W. JONES LOYD & CO.—King-street, Manchester, Dec. 27, 1848.

DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.—The *Glasgow Herald* states that recently a young gentleman returned from Australia to visit his relations in the neighbourhood of Govan, but before leaving the colony hemet with a slight accident in the foot, which being, perhaps, neglected during the passage home, caused the great toe nail to grow into the flesh. To remove the pain and inconvenience, the gentleman resolved to submit to an operation, which a respectable surgeon in Govan was employed to perform on Tuesday last. Preparatory to doing so, the surgeon resolved to make use of chloroform; but the patient, after inhaling the gas, almost instantly expired. An investigation of the affair is in progress.

HIGHWAY ROBBERIES AT BIRMINGHAM.—This town and the immediate neighbourhood still continue to be scenes of audacious robberies. On the night of Monday last, about eleven o'clock, a man named Heaton, while passing along the new street, to Fazeley-street, was stopped by six men, who threw him down, robbed him of his money, and then so ill-used him, that he remained insensible for nearly two hours. A few days previously, the robbery of a lady was effected in broad daylight, in the fields between Birchfield and Handsworth Old Church. The offender has been apprehended, and committed to take his trial at the ensuing Staffordshire Assizes. A daring robbery was also committed on the high road at Shirley, on the afternoon of Tuesday last. As a dress-maker was taking home a dress, a man suddenly sprung out of the hedge, knocked her down, kicked her severely, and ran away with the parcel.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The existence of a Government which is neither provisional nor revolutionary, but fixed and definite, appears to have created a sense of security in Paris to which its citizens have long been strangers, and from which, therefore, they derive increased satisfaction.

On New Year's day, which has always been a day of gladness with the Parisians, the streets of the capital were crowded with joyous groups, whose tranquil cheerfulness contrasted strongly with the spirit of violence or of dismay alternately exhibited by the crowds that have hitherto thronged the thoroughfares. One incident of rather a stirring nature took place about one o'clock, which passed off with the same quiet that characterized the whole of the day. About 50 or 60 old soldiers of the Imperial army, dressed in the well-known uniform which recalls the most glorious deeds of modern French history, marched along the Boulevards, accompanying a gigantic bouquet, which was borne on the shoulders of the most robust and the least stricken in years amongst them. The veteran band comprised the representatives of every arm of the old Imperial army. Amongst them might be distinguished the red uniform of the Lancers of the Imperial Guard; the green of the old *Dragons de l'Impératrice*; the light blue and white of the cavalry of that country which first gave the lance to the armies of Europe; and the familiar blue with red facings, turned up with white, of the Old Guard. A party of ten or twelve walked in front of the bouquet, another in the rear; and the *cordons* of the immense box, from which shot up the flowers and shrubs, were held on each side by the oldest of the band. On the sides of the box that contained the offering were traced four or five letters, interwoven in a cipher, and intended to represent the name and rank of the nephew of him whom these veterans had served in other times—the letters were L.N., P.R. The band slowly marched along the Boulevards, and proceeded to the official residence of the President of the Republic, for whom the compliment was intended. Large crowds were attracted by the sight, and accompanied the triumphal car thus laden with flowers to its destination. By the time it reached the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré, the streets in that direction were nearly impassable. Yet, notwithstanding the multitude that formed the *cortège*, not a cry was heard, and all passed off in the most tranquil manner.

The President gave a reception, which is noticed elsewhere. Throughout the day the shops were thronged with purchasers, thus restoring, in some degree, the old pre-revolutionary appearance of Paris.

Short as is the time since the new Cabinet has entered office, it has sufficed to produce some Ministerial changes of consequence, which have been caused by the respective rights and duties of the President of the Republic, and his Ministry not being so clearly defined and comprehended by both parties as to prevent misunderstanding. The resignations and appointments are:—1st. M. Léon Faucher, Minister of the Interior, in the place of M. Léon de Malleville. 2nd. M. Lacrosse, Vice-President of the National Assembly, Minister of Public Works, in the place of M. Léon Faucher. 3rd. M. Buffet, representative of the people, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, in the place of M. Bixio.

The cause of the resignation of M. Léon de Malleville, Minister of the Interior, was understood to be that the President had made an appointment which properly belonged to that department; and M. de Malleville having refused to countersign it, Prince Louis Napoleon rated him for the act in a letter couched in despotical language *à la Bonaparte*. The appointment proposed by the President, and rejected by M. de Malleville, was that of Count Nieuwerkerke, a distinguished sculptor, to the post of Director of Fine Arts. This appointment was understood to have been proposed at the urgent request of the Princess Demidoff, the President's cousin. It is further stated that the President demanded from M. de Malleville three letters which he had addressed to Louis Philippe after the affair of Strasbourg, and which remain deposited in the archives of the Ministry of the Interior. These letters M. de Malleville refused to give up. It is added, also, that the President required to have the telegraphic despatches communicated to him, as well as other details of the administration, which M. de Malleville thought it his duty to withhold.

The *Réforme* contains the following version of the cause of the resignation of M. Léon de Malleville:—"According to certain reports, the Minister of the Interior obstinately refused to deliver up to the President of the Republic the evidence collected relative to the affairs of Strasbourg and Boulogne, because that evidence was collected by a certain Minister of the Republic himself when he was Under-Secretary of State and Director-General of the Police of the kingdom under Louis Philippe. Amongst those documents are, it is said, several curious letters written by police agents against the present President of the Republic. The scruples of the Minister may well be imagined, and that consequently he would rather resign than deliver up his own work."

The resignation of M. Bixio arose from his being the only one of the Ministry who approved of the course taken by M. de Malleville.

M. Lacrosse, who has been nominated to the Ministry of Public Works, vacated by M. Léon Faucher, was a strong supporter of General Cavaignac, but nevertheless belonged to the moderate party.

The demand for the dissolution of the National Assembly is becoming more clamorous every day, and on Saturday last a proposition on the subject was formally brought forward. It is to the effect that the elections for the Legislative Assembly shall take place on March 4th; that that Assembly shall be convoked for the 19th, on which day the functions of the present Assembly shall terminate; and that, in the meanwhile, the present Assembly shall confine its discussions to the electoral law and the law relative to the Council of State. This project, which has been declared "urgent," has been referred to the Committees of Justice and Legislation.

The great distress which exists amongst the poorer classes at present in Paris, and the non-fulfilment—by any immediate remedial act of statesmanship on the part of the Prince-President—of the extravagant expectations which the more humble and numerous classes of his supporters at the late election seem to have formed to themselves of the benefits to be derived from his rule, have begun, even already, to impair the popular favour hitherto so emphatically expressed in his regard; but which, uncertain and fickle at all times and in all nations, is, above all others in France, and during a period of revolution, the most fleeting of sentiments; and, however unreasonable it may be to expect, in a few days, the cure of evils which date from the commencement of the late revolutionary commotions, the discontent evinced with respect to the new President is not the less certain and general.

There is no particular act censured; no accusation brought against him for any specific fact. It is his want of energy, his apathy, his indifference to the state of the country, his originating no measure to relieve its condition or render its embarrassments less, that have excited a feeling so different from that which existed scarcely a fortnight since; while at the same time it is observed that he seems to pay more attention to the fashion of his new liveries and his state carriages than to the interests of the country, the adoption of a judicious system of policy, or the reparation of the immense injuries inflicted on the country by the late revolutionary Governments. People of all parties are beginning to express concurrence in one fact, that, instead of a blessing, the Revolution of February was one of the greatest misfortunes that could fall on a civilised nation.

The mortality in Paris during the week was considerably above the average, owing to the sufferings caused by the severity of the weather.

SPAIN.

According to accounts from Madrid, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated in the Chamber of Deputies on the 27th ult., in reply to some Progressista Deputies who had asked that the official correspondence, which had passed between the Governments of Great Britain and Spain, relative to the expulsion of Mr. Bulwer, should be communicated to the Assembly, that he had no objection to lay that correspondence before the Chamber.

An important victory obtained by the Carlists under Cabrera, over the "army of Catalonia," commanded by Captain General Concha in person, is announced in the Bayonne papers. The battle was fought in the environs of Vich on the 26th ult., and is described as being most sanguinary and decisive. The Carlist Chief was at the head of his united forces, amounting to 10,000 men, and the Queen's army was 14,000 strong. Four squadrons of cavalry and 1400 infantry, composed of the best soldiers of the army, were taken prisoners. The remainder fled in every direction, and the Carlist General, although slightly wounded in the head by a musket-ball, warmly pursued the fugitives. This account requires confirmation.

BELGIUM.

The Brussels *Moniteur* of Monday last published the law adopted by the Chamber, and sanctioned by the King, by which the budget of the expenditure for 1849 is fixed at 11,620,000 francs in the department of Finance. By another law, provisional credits are opened in the budget for 1849 as follows: In the department of Justice, 1,000,000 f.; department of the Interior, 990,000 f.; Public Works, 2,775,000 f.; War, 5,000,000 f.; Finance, 2,200,000 f. To the same department for divers services comprised in the budget, 160,000 f.

The Government has given permission for the entry of corn grain, whether by Belgian or foreign ships, at 50 centimes per 100 kilogrammes. Considerable reductions are also made in the entrance dues on potatoes and other vegetables, on horned cattle, and dried meats, &c.

ITALIAN STATES.

ROME.—A supreme Junta of Government has been constituted at Rome: it is composed of MM. Corsini, Galletti, and Camarata, and to remain in office till the Constituent Assembly shall have been convoked. On the 20th the Junta published a proclamation, in which, after declaring their insufficiency for the difficult task imposed upon them, they promise, with the assistance of the other Powers, to maintain order internally, to aid the development of free institutions, to restore prosperity in every class, and to co-operate by every means in the establishment of national independence. But they declare at the same time that they will only continue in office till a Constituent Assembly of the Roman States shall have pronounced itself on the question of the political form of the State; and they will hasten as much as possible the moment when such an Assembly shall meet. The Ministry has been modified thus: Muzarelli, President, Minister of Public Instruction and (ad interim) Foreign Affairs; Armellini, Interior; Galletti, Justice; Mamiani, Finance; Sterbini, Commerce and Public Works; Cambello, War. The War Minister is very active, offering premiums for the enrolment of soldiers.

The Pope still continues at Gaëta, where the King and Royal Family of Naples are also for the most part staying, to honour their fugitive guest. A great number of Cardinals and the Foreign Ambassadors are also at Gaëta. Admiral Parker and Mr. Temple, our Ministers at Naples, lately paid their respects to the Pope. The object of their visit, it is said, was to offer his Holiness an asylum at Malta, should he be disposed to seek refuge on British ground. The Pope, in acknowledging the attention, declared it to be his determination for the present to remain at Gaëta.

SWITZERLAND.

Advices from Berne this week say: The Grand Council of Friburg has come to the following resolution:—Amnesty for all political crimes and misdemeanours which were connected with the attempts at insurrection which occurred at the commencement of the year, and in the revolt of October last; payment by the state of the expenses of the military occupation resulting from these events, and with which the communes have been charged; conversion of the contribution of 1,600,000 francs of Switzerland imposed on the authors and persons engaged in the war of the Sonderbund, into a forced loan, reimbursable by the state by means of the sinking fund.

PRUSSIA.

Intelligence from Berlin this week mentions that on Monday last, the 1st inst., the budget for 1849 was issued, signed by the King, and countersigned by Kühne, for the Minister of Finance. The receipts for 1849 are estimated at 88,566,382 rix dollars; extraordinary usances, 5,608,000—total, 94,174,380. The expenditure is estimated: current expenses, 88,506,061 rix dollars; extraordinary expenses, 5,668,319: total, 94,174,380. The expenditure, in 1848, amounted to 85,623,739 rix dollars; consequently the budget of 1849 is estimated at 8,550,641 rix dollars higher than in the preceding year. Addresses of congratulation on the new year to the King, Queen, and Royal Family had been presented from the citizens and the municipal authorities.

General Wrangel had granted the permission for holding public meetings of the electors, notwithstanding the state of siege, on condition the citizens presiding at them pledged themselves not to allow any unnecessary discussion on political questions.

Three of the late Deputies of the Assembly—one of them the eminent jurist, M. Temme—had been arrested, by order of the Government, on the charge of inciting the people to refuse the payment of taxes.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

Advices to the 29th ult. have been received from the seat of war. A bulletin from Prince Windischgrätz announces the capture, by the Austrians, under the command of Marshal Berger, of the strong fortress of Arad, with a loss on their part of 15 killed and 40 wounded. Raab also has been taken. Early on the morning of the 27th ult. Prince Windischgrätz directed two columns to cross the Danube at two points, above the town and below it. The latter crossing was effected at the juncture of the river Raab with the Danube, and the whole of the manoeuvre was intended to cut off the retreat of the Hungarian army. The Commander-in-Chief advanced meanwhile with the reserve corps to the banks of the Rabinitz, over which he threw a bridge, the construction of which was scarcely completed when he was informed of the retreat of the Hungarians, who had abandoned their fortifications and fallen back in two columns, one taking the road to the fortress of Comorn, and the other proceeding in the direction of Ofen. On his way to the town of Raab, Prince Windischgrätz was met by a deputation of citizens, who presented him with the keys of the town, cheered him, and illuminated the city in the evening. Prince Windischgrätz found it impossible to intercept the retreat of the Hungarians; his light horse succeeded, indeed, in closing with the rear of the enemy, and one officer and nine privates of the Hussars were captured.

Immediately on the occupation of Raab by the Imperial troops, General Ottlinger led his troops a forced march to Babolna, where he arrived at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 28th ult. He found the enemy's rear-guard occupying that town, and proceeded forthwith to attack them. The main body of the Hungarians continued their retreat; but a body of horsemen of the late regiment, "The Prince of Prussia," were surrounded by two divisions of the Walmoden Dragoons, who cut part of them down and captured the rest. The Austrians made altogether 700 prisoners, 200 of whom were wounded.

DENMARK AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

The intelligence from Schleswig speaks of an invasion of the Duchy by the Danish troops as a probable event.

PRINCIPALITIES OF THE DANUBE.

The news from the Danubian Principalities is up to the 22nd December. The armies of the Turks and the Russians have gone into winter quarters. The Turkish troops are at Bucharest, and some, also, in the principal towns on the banks of the Danube, such as Galatz, Ibralla, and Giurgewo. The Russian Army has taken its position along the highway from Bessarabia to Bucharest, at Leowa, Berlad, Fokshang, Buesca, Bucharest, and Jassy.

EGYPT.

Intelligence from Alexandria, dated the 21st ult., states that the Sultan's firman, appointing Abbas Pacha Viceroy of Egypt, had been publicly read in the citadel at Cairo. The new Viceroy left Cairo on the 18th for Alexandria, on his way to Constantinople, to receive the confirmation of his appointment. He was to sail on the 21st, in the Sultan's steam-yacht, accompanied by two Egyptian war steamers, taking with him £200,000 to spend in presents at Constantinople.

UNITED STATES.

Advices to the 20th ult. have been received from New York during the week. In the House of Representatives, the following resolution, in reference to the arrest of American sympathisers in Ireland, had been adopted:—

"Resolved, that the President of the United States be requested to inform this House whether he has received any information that American citizens have been imprisoned or arrested by the British authorities in Ireland; and, if so, what have been the causes thereof, and what steps have been taken for their release; and, if not, in his opinion, inconsistent with the public interests, to furnish this House with copies of all correspondence in relation to the matter."

In the Senate a motion had been made calling upon the President for information concerning any correspondence which had been had with the Government of Spain, in reference to the purchase of the island of Cuba. The motion was, however, opposed, and subsequently withdrawn.

Four projects for the settlement of the slavery question in the territories are now before Congress:—1. Making one state of California, to be organised immediately, and leaving the question of slavery to the people. 2. The petition of the people of New Mexico for organisation into a state, with slavery excluded expressly by law. 3. Clayton's old compromise bill, leaving the matter to the supreme court. 4. The resolutions of the House of Representatives, instructing the Territorial Committee to report a bill for the organisation of territorial governments, excluding slavery. It is not supposed that any of these projects can be carried through at the present session.

According to the medical report of the Office of Health at Staten Island, the cholera was on the increase, but it was fortunately of a mild type. A vessel had arrived at Baltimore, from Rotterdam, with several cases on board.

The Park Theatre, and several other buildings at New York, were totally destroyed by fire on the 16th ult.

The California excitement, which we notice in another column, was increasing daily.

MEXICO.

The latest news from Mexico is of the 25th of November, from the capital; and the 27th of the same month from Vera Cruz. It was generally believed in Mexico that Paredes had got off in the last British steamer. He has been traced as far towards the coast as Orizaba.

The news from the insurgents of Sierra Gordo is again deplorable: they were continually attacking haciendas, killing and plundering the inhabitants. Bustamante despatched a force against them from Queretaro, but they took refuge at once in almost inaccessible fastnesses, losing only a few men in killed and wounded. The Government was about to reinforce Bustamante, and there would seem to be need of it, as serious fears had been entertained lest the insurgents should gain possession of the city of Queretaro. Durango was over-run by Indians, said to be Camanches, the small villages making no resistance to their ruthless foes. The road from the city of Durango to the port of Mazatlan was in their possession. A valuable commerce is carried on by this route. Men of character and of note are often killed by these savages.

INDIA.

Advices have been received this week in anticipation of the Overland Mail. The dates are from Calcutta to the 25th of November, from the seat of war to the 20th November, and Bombay to the 3rd December.

The Commander-in-Chief, by these advices, had crossed the Ravee, near Ramnugger, some 55 miles from Lahore, and was manoeuvring to get hold of the rebels in a decided action. At Mooltan the temerity of the Dewan had been signally punished by the capture of the outwork thrown out to molest our camp, with a considerable loss of troops on his part and of seven heavy guns.

The *Friend of India* gives the following able summary as well of the attack as of the circumstances under which it occurred:—"A battery erected on the outside of the walls of the town greatly annoyed our position. On the evening of the 6th of November it was determined to send a considerable force, under Brigadier Markham, an hour before daylight, to take the enemy by surprise. On that day it appears that intelligence of the defection of the troops at Peshawar had reached the camp, and combined with the non-arrival of reinforcements from Scinde or Ferozepore, greatly disheartened the men. To add to the confusion, six companies of General Cortland's regiment went over in small detachments to the enemy; and the officers under whom they had been appointed to serve found themselves in a very awkward position, though they had reason to congratulate themselves on not having been attacked when the traitors left our camp. From various circumstances, the idea of a surprise was given up, and orders were issued to the men to cook and eat, and to be in readiness at half-past nine o'clock in the morning. They had hardly commenced when news arrived that Major Edwards's camp was attacked in force by the enemy, who had outflanked his batteries. They were driven back with great loss, after a hand-to-hand fight, in which his men exhibited their wonted valour. In the meantime the troops under Brigadier Markham advanced to the rescue, and having made a detour to the right, moved down on the enemy, cavalry and infantry emulating each other. Battery after battery was taken, and all the enemy's guns were shortly in our possession, with the exception of two, which were withdrawn into the town. No officers were even wounded; only two Europeans and four natives were killed, and about fourteen wounded. The loss of the enemy was very severe. Our success was most complete, and it reflects the highest credit on the skill and judgment of the Brigadier, whose manoeuvres are the theme of general praise in all the letters which have been published from the camp. The exact loss of Major Edwards has not been ascertained, but it is believed to have been fully 200 in killed and wounded."

An army of reserve was being formed on the inner frontier of the Punjab; while on the disturbed confines the insurgents, who had allowed their day of inactivity to pass unprofitably, were making every shift to avoid an action, at the expense of retiring upon those sterile ridges, the spurs of the Himalaya, peopled by Mussulmans, where at least they will have a guerilla warfare to fight in a hostile country.

The Governor-General left Allahabad in the middle of November, on his way to the north-west frontier.

PAST AND PRESENT.—WAGES.—EXPENSE OF GOVERNMENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

MR. MACAULAY'S admirable "History of England," recently published, contains a chapter on the changes in the state of England since the period of Charles the Second's death, in 1685. By industry and research scarcely surpassed he has collected curious materials—the dry bones of knowledge—from all kinds of out-of-the-way literature, and all kinds of records; he has animated them by his own informing spirit; embellished them by his own graphic and expressive pen; and placed before us a living picture of our ancestors, such as no master has ever before created. A few of the facts he has collected, illustrating the condition of the labouring classes, and the expense of the Government at different periods, may not be unacceptable to our readers.

To be told the rate of wages without knowing the price of food gives no information; it is necessary, therefore, to state that the average price of the quarter of wheat during the last twelve years of Charles II. was 50s. It is now 51s.; and, during the existence of the Corn Laws, the average was not more than 56s. 10d. At the former period beer was not more than half its present price, which is kept high by the duties levied on malt. The rural population had, at the former period, some little advantages, such as the use of common land occasionally to feed a flock of geese, or of the woods in which to turn the pigs at Michaelmas. "He cut turf among the furze-bushes on the moor, which is now a meadow bright with clover, and renowned for butter and cheese. He snared wild-fowl on the fen, that has long since been drained and divided into corn-fields and turnip-fields." But the town population had none of these advantages, and their condition may be accurately estimated by their wages and the price of provisions. Amongst the commodities for which the labourer would have had to pay a higher price in 1685 than his posterity pay in 1848, were sugar, salt, soap, candles, shoes, stockings, and generally all articles of clothing and all articles of bedding. It is an error, therefore, to suppose that money wages would go much further then in providing the labourer with the necessities of life than now: in fact, the same sum of money would purchase less clothing and less fuel, less meat, and a little more bread and more beer, than now.

The average wages of agricultural labourers in 1685 were about 4s. a week, without food; in Warwickshire, at that period, they were fixed at that rate, and every employer who gave more, and every labourer who received more, was liable to be punished. In Devonshire the wages of the agricultural labourer were 5s., without food; in Suffolk, 6s. in winter, and 6s. in summer. In Essex, in 1661, they were fixed at 6s. in winter, and 7s. in summer; but wheat was then 70s. the quarter. In 1680 it was noticed as an exorbitant payment that an English mechanic exacted 1s. a day. In an old ballad published in the reign of Charles II., the weaver complained that 6d. a day was all that could be earned by hard labour at the loom; and the poet demanded as a proper remuneration 1s. a day. From the carefully-kept records of Greenwich it appears that in the course of 120 years the daily earnings of the bricklayer have risen from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 10d.; those of the mason from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 3d.; those of the carpenter from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 5d.; and those of the plumber from 3s. to 5s. 6d. It seems clear, therefore, that the wages of labour estimated in money were in 1685 not more than half what they now are, and that the money would not buy more good things then than now. We do not say, because wages are better now than in 1685, that the people should not strive for higher wages; though their condition may in comparison be improved, it is universally felt to be worse than it ought to be; it is, in fact, dangerous to society; and Mr. Macaulay tells us that "there is constant improvement," only because there is "constant discontent." The improvement in their condition since the days of the Stewarts, though trifling, should keep people alive, and be an assurance to them that by perseverance and good conduct better days gradually come, and are always coming faster and faster.

The employment of children, which has so much interested humanity in our day, is not a modern invention. At Norwich, in 1685, a little creature, six years old, was thought fit for labour. Several writers of that time, some of them considered as eminently benevolent, mention with exultation the fact, that in Norwich alone boys and girls of tender age created wealth exceeding the value of their own subsistence by £12,000 a year.

The number of paupers it is probable bore a greater proportion to the population in 1685 than now. Gregory King, an excellent authority, estimated them at more than a fifth. Mr. Macaulay thinks this an exaggeration. The average proportion now, and it is considered large, is about one-tenth; and he shows good reason for believing that it was considerably greater then. The rate of mortality, about which we have lately heard so much, is another criterion of the condition of the labouring classes, who in every community form a large portion, if not the bulk of the population.

In the year 1685, not a sickly year, more than one in 23 of the inhabitants of the capital died. At present only one inhabitant of the capital in forty dies annually. Wretched as the accommodation of the poor in the metropolis now is, it was worse then; but then there was no newspaper to plead their cause; and nowhere was found "that sensitive and restless compassion" which in our day has assuaged every human woe, and "endeavoured to save the life even of the murderer." Not only has the physical condition been improved, "it is pleasing to reflect that the public mind of England has softened while it has ripened, and that we have, in the course of ages, become not only a wiser but also a kinder people."

The Government has taken to itself a full share of the social advantages it is bound to secure to others. Properly does Mr. Macaulay say, that the great object of every inquirer who wishes to form a correct notion of the state of the community at a given time, is to ascertain of how many persons it consists. From a variety of authorities, agreeing with other writers, he states the population of England and Wales, in 1685, at between 5,000,000 and 5,500,000 inhabitants. In the reign of Charles the Second the revenue of England and Wales is put down at about £1,400,000. In the reign of James II. the annual income of the State, accurately given by other authorities, was £2,061,856. Let us say £2,000,000. Assuming the smallest number as the amount of population (5,000,000), and the largest sum as the revenue of the Government (£2,000,000), it follows that the amount of taxation per head, in England and Wales, at that period, was 8s. At present the population of England and Wales may be assumed to be 18,000,000, which is probably beyond the amount. The cost of the Government last year, according to Mr. Cobden's letter, was £55,175,000. Say, for the sake of round numbers, £55,000,000, and let us strike off (which will be a large allowance) one-third for the revenue contributed by Scotland and Ireland, we shall then have thirty-seven millions some hundred thousand pounds as the revenue of England and Wales in 1848, which is something more than £2 per head as the present amount of taxation. The population, since 1685, has increased 3½ times; but the Government expense has increased, including the debt, 18½ times, and, excluding the debt, ninefold, since the reign of James II.; and Mr. Macaulay puts the increase down at thirtyfold, but this is, we think, an exaggeration, though ours is an under statement.

It is well known that the amount of rent, though Mr. Macaulay gives us no data on this subject, has increased in a much greater ratio than the wages of labour or the expense of Government, and that the profits on capital have increased to a greater amount than rent; and as it is by comparison that men judge of their condition, the more rapid increase of the wealth of the Government, landowners, and capitalists, than of the labourers, supplies an explanation of the grumbling and discontent of the labouring classes, though their condition absolutely has been improved.

LOUIS PHILIPPE.—The *Débats* contains the following:—"Several journals have announced that the ex-King Louis Philippe and his family were about to leave Richmond to take up their residence in the Isle of Wight. We do not believe that such a change of residence has ever been in contemplation. The convalescence of the illustrious invalids has progressed most rapidly at Richmond; and Dr. Henri Guéneau de Mussy, whose skill and attention have saved them from the most imminent danger, considers the climate of Richmond most favourable to their re-establishment. Her Majesty herself, whose age and weakness rendered the attack most dangerous, will, it is hoped, be soon restored to perfect health."

THE MONSTER SERPENT.—EXCITEMENT AMONG AMERICAN SHOWMEN.—The good ship *Allen*, Captain Williams, recently arrived at Salem, Massachusetts, from the coast of Africa, having on board a living monster serpent of the constrictor species, which verifies all the stories we have read of their crushing and swallowing a horse at a single meal; it is much larger than any ever before taken, its length being thirty feet. Of course the arrival of such a monster set all of our showmen into a wonderful fever. Van Amburgh, and June and Titus, despatched an agent for Salem and Newhaven; one of the firm of Raymond and Waring proceeded by way of Worcester; and Barnum sent his major domo, Hitchcock, by the steamer, *Bay State*. The Yankee proprietor of the snake, seeing such an excitement, and feeling that it will be difficult to run an opposition, has taken his ground; and a telegraphic despatch to Van Amburgh and Co. announces that he will take no less than 11,000 dollars for it, and, in case of not finding a customer, he will turn "showman," and exhibit it himself. Their agent offered 7000 dollars for it, but Mr. Hitchcock immediately bid 500 dollars more, and so the matter stands. Captain Williams positively avers that it took 126 negroes seven hours to secure this monster. They did it by means of a heavy rope net made for the purpose, and thrown over him when coiled up. What a serpent!—*New York True Sun*.

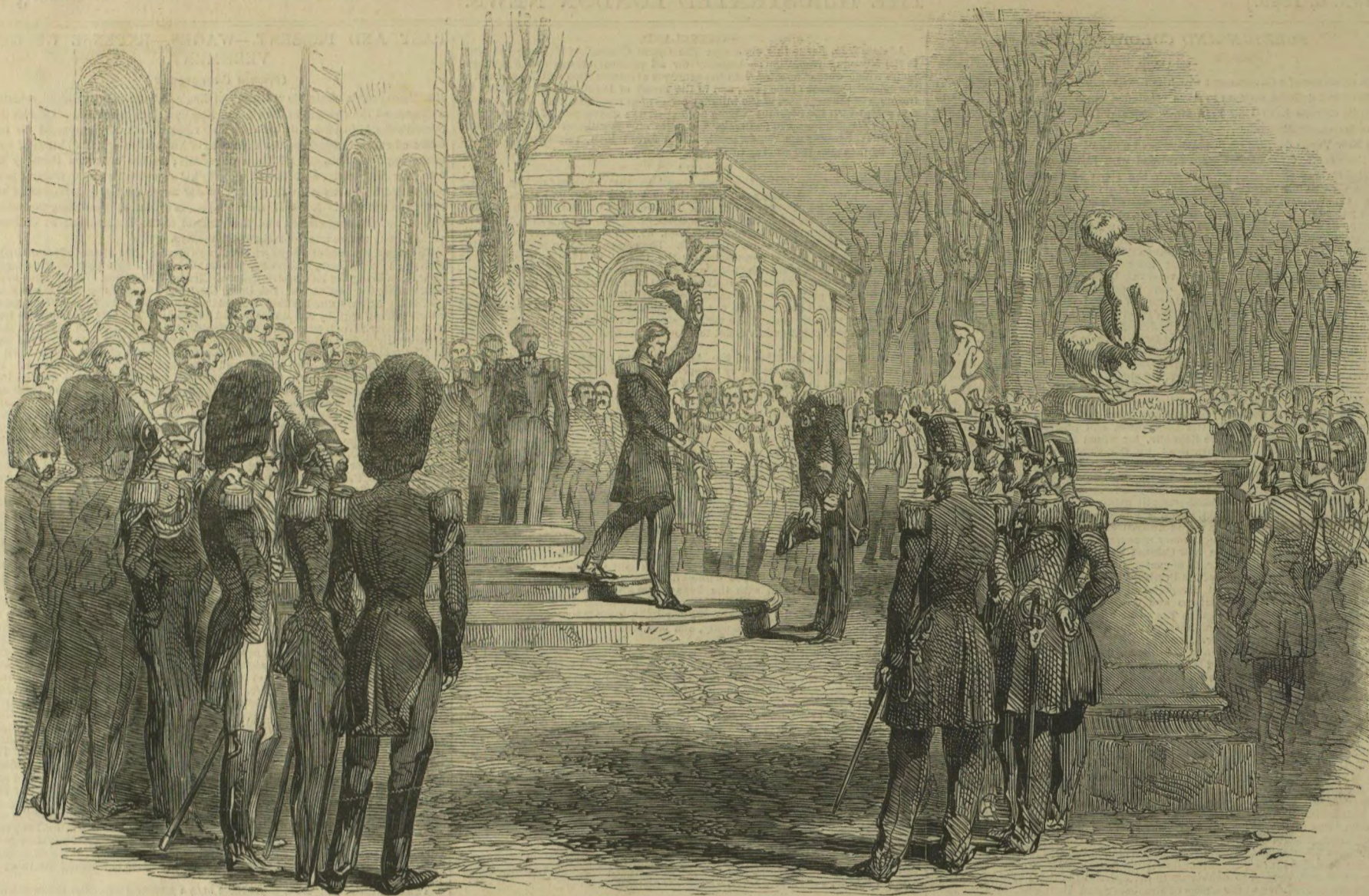
LOUIS NAPOLEON'S RECEPTION.

On New Year's Day the President received the superior officers on the retired list, and residing in Paris, at 11 o'clock in the morning, at his official residence. He also received, at the same hour, the *corps diplomatique*. The Ministers and Marshals of France were present.

At 12 o'clock the members of the different orders of law, the Council of the University, the members of the Institute, the Prefects of the Department of the Seine, and of the Police, Sous-Prefects, and municipal authorities, paid their respects on the occasion of the new year. The other public functionaries, and the representatives of the different corps and corporations of the capital, and the *ban-nerie*, continued to be received up to half-past 2 o'clock.

Our Artist has represented the reception of the President's visitors in the gardens of the Palace of the Elysée Nationale, the *jacade* of which is shown. The President is just issuing from the drawingroom door, with his aide-de-camp; and General Changarnier is just advancing to meet him.

In the Reception-room of the Palace, the President was subsequently sur-



THE PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION, AT THE ELYSEE NATIONAL.

rounded by the Ministers and Marshals of France, and attended by General Changarnier and a numerous and brilliant staff. He wore the uniform of General of the National Guard, with the Grand Cordon and Star of the Legion of Honour, and stood in the centre of the magnificent saloon on the ground-floor, in front of the Marshals, and uncovered. The company passed him, moving from the left to the right. All the members of the diplomatic corps were in full dress of ceremony. The Pope's Nuncio was the first, the British Ambassador the second; followed, in succession, by the Spanish and Belgian Ambassadors, the Dutch and Swedish Ministers, and the *Chargés d'Affaires* of the other powers. The President advanced towards the Apostolic Nuncio, and expressed his hope of soon seeing his Holiness re-established in his States. This marked reception seemed to have a lively effect on the representative of the Court of Rome. The President gave all the other Ambassadors assurances of his sincere desire for peace and union.

The other constituted bodies passed the President in the following order:—The old officers of the Empire; the superior officers in non-activity; the Courts of Cassation and Accounts; the superior Council of the University; the Court of Appeal, in their robes, with their first Presidents and *Procureurs-Général* at their head. The President addressed the first President, M. Portalis, and spoke of the illustrious reputation of his father, and the high esteem in which he was held by the Emperor. On receiving M. Troplong, recently made first President

of the Court of Appeal, the President expressed his satisfaction at having had to place one of his first signatures to the nomination of so eminent a lawyer, called to that post by public opinion. When the Board of Admiralty came forward, the President addressed Admiral Hugon, and expressed his admiration of his conduct at the Battle of Navarino, the siege of Algiers in 1830, and in 1841, when he commanded the fleet in the East.

ANCIENT AND MODERN ROME.

Rome Imperial! Rome majestic!
Shade of greatness vanish'd
all—

Looking down th' abyss of ages
To behold thy rise and fall,
We can trace upon thy forehead,
Queen and wonder of thy day,
Broadly marked the awful sent-
ence,
"Pass away!"

Great but wicked, fair but cruel,
Scepter'd mischief, worshipp'd
long,
Never yet did men or nations
Prosper finally in wrong.
Justice did her work upon thee,
Mightier than thine own her sway,
'Twas her voice pronounced thy
judgment—
"Pass away!"

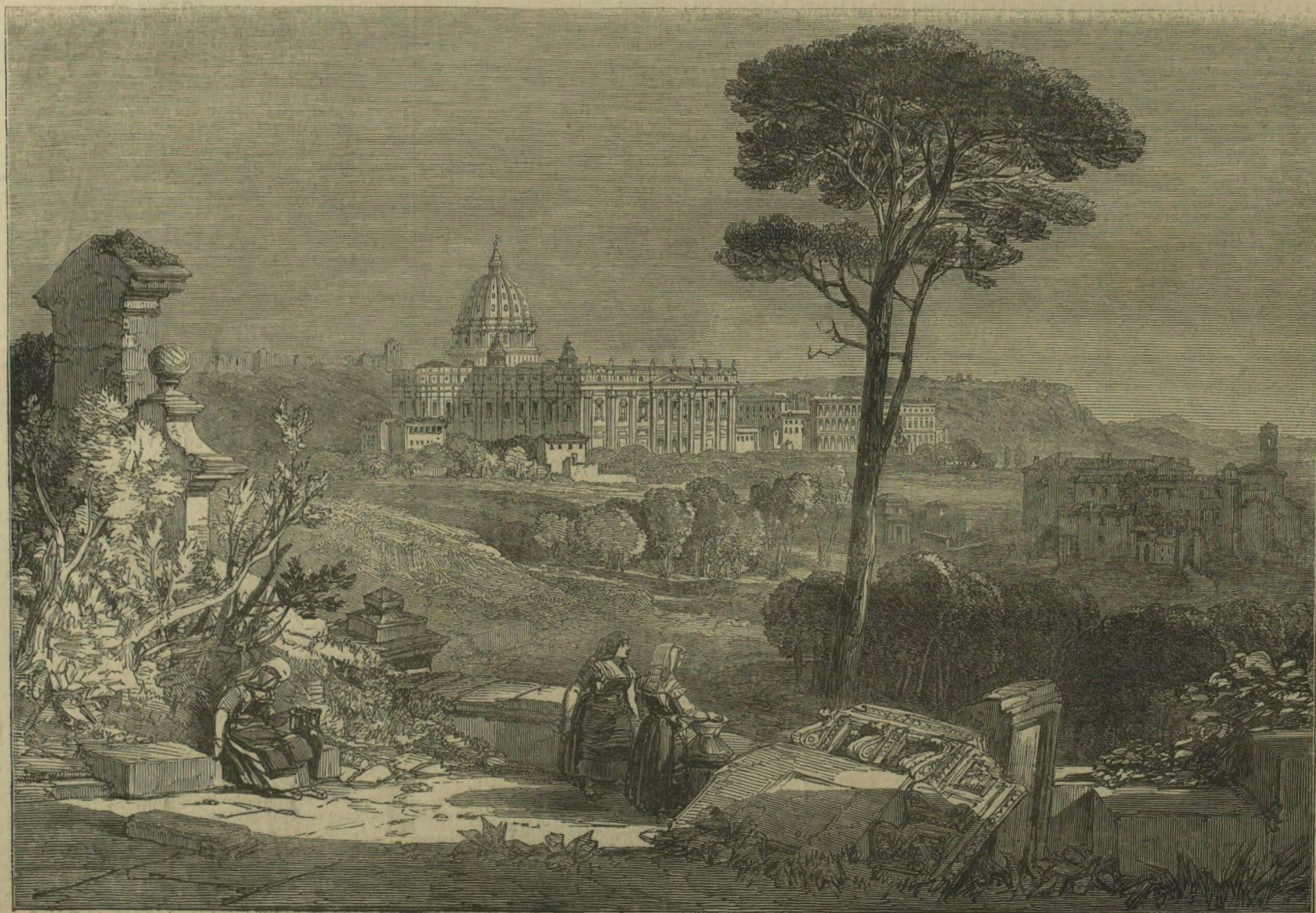
Modern Rome! thou mitred phre-
nix!

Risen from those embers cold,
Looking dimly through the future,
The same shadow we behold—
Shadow of a power departing,
Spectre of a great decay,
Bearing on its front the motto
"Pass away!"

Whither went the ancient Caesars
With the pomp of peace or war,
Thither go the modern Pontiffs
With dominion grander far.
Papal stole and regal purple
Fall in ripeness of the day,
Caesar's crown and Pope's tiara
"Pass away!"

Priestly Rome! thy cup is filling:
In our era, dauntless Truth
Feels her life and struggles upwards
With the energy of youth.
Thou shalt bind her wings no
longer,
Never more her progress stay;
Thou hast lived thy generation—
"Pass away!"

If hereafter from thy ashes
A new phoenix shall ascend,
May she learn to dwell with Virtue,
And take Freedom for her friend.
If as thou she clogs the spirit,
And denies the truth of day,
On her head thy doom be spoken—
"Pass away!"

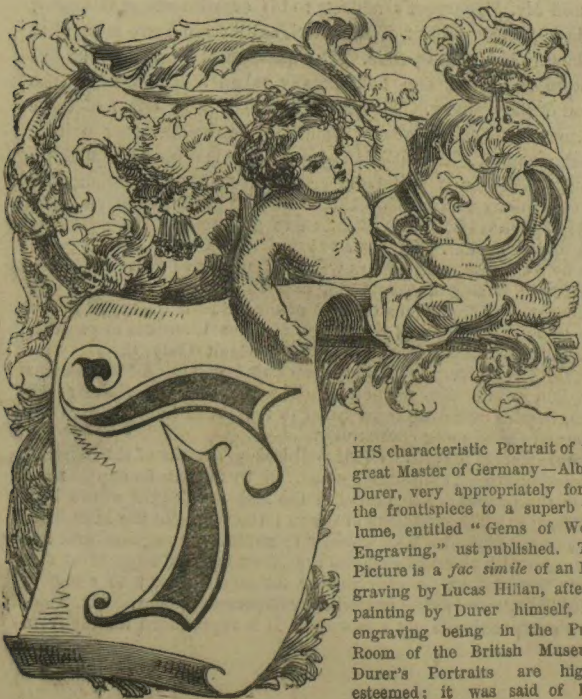


ROME.—DRAWN BY LEITCH.

F I N E A R T S .



ALBERT DURER.—FROM A PICTURE BY HIMSELF.



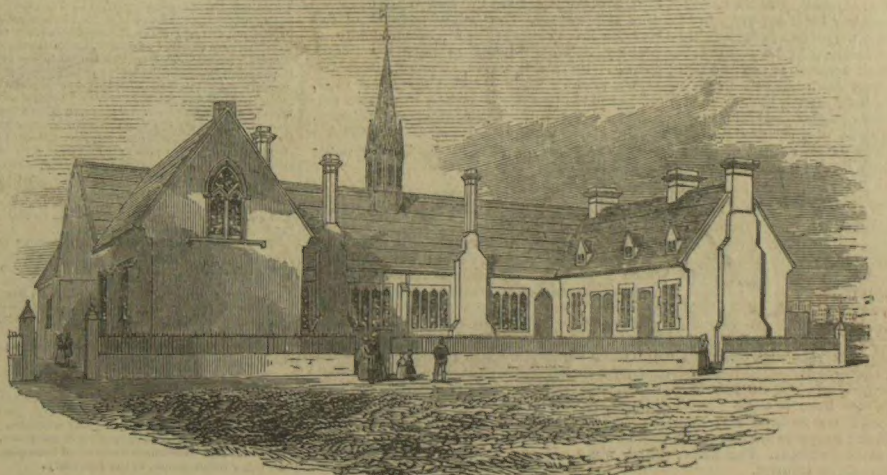
HIS characteristic Portrait of the great Master of Germany—Albert Durer, very appropriately forms the frontispiece to a superb volume, entitled "Gems of Wood Engraving," just published. The Picture is a *fac simile* of an Engraving by Lucas Hilan, after a painting by Durer himself, the engraving being in the Print Room of the British Museum. Durer's Portraits are highly esteemed; it was said of him

that he not only possessed the talent of catching the exact expression of the features, but also of delineating the different characters and passions. Hence, it is reasonable to infer the Portrait before us to be an accurate presentment of the master who painted it.

The fitness of this Illustration for a volume of masterpieces of Wood Engraving, will be acknowledged when the high fame of Albert Durer as an engraver on wood is recollected: his wood-cuts are triumphs of the art, and considered equal to those of Hugh de Carpi; the British Museum is rich in specimens of Durer's drawings and engravings. His lifetime is an important epoch in the history of Wood-Engraving, for no artist of his time contributed more to its advancement. In the present day, Wood-Engraving may be termed a *revived art*; and it is not too much to add, that by no other means have the works of the artist been so extensively multiplied, or made to minister to the delight of such multitudes, as through the medium of Wood-Engraving. Durer is, indeed, a memory that must ever evoke popular gratitude.

The volume of "Gems" before us is a carefully-made selection from the *chef-d'oeuvres* which have appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, from its first establishment to the present time. In re-producing these works, all that fine printing and quality of paper can effect is here accomplished. The subjects selected are from almost every department of graphic art—History, Landscape, Portrait, Still Life, Architecture, Animals, and Imaginative Composition—affording, from their excellence and variety, not only a pleasing recreation to the amateur, but also supplying the artist with interesting subjects of study.

The collection numbers upwards of 90 Illustrations, each, in most cases printed upon a folio page of delicately tinted paper, with a margin of such breadth as materially to aid the artistic excellence of the Engravings. In the difficult



NEW SCHOOLS AT KENTISH TOWN.

gregor's exposition is not a new one. It is reproduced mainly from

one of the bulky statistical volumes of the honourable gentleman; but it is none the worse for having been previously given to the public. Mr. Macgregor would abolish all the Customs Duties, except on eight articles: but as these are the most productive, the Revenue would lose but little by the alteration. He would reduce our naval, military, and general expenditure by about six millions only, and would grant relief from taxation oppressive to the poorer classes by increasing the Property Tax to five per cent.

It will be seen that Mr. Cobden's plan is the bolder and abler of the two; but Mr. Macgregor's exposition—after due allowance for its prolixity and bad grammar—will possibly be considered by many as the safer guide. Both of them will be of service to the cause of good government. They will create discussion; and it is high time that the energies of our leading statesmen should be concentrated upon the great task before them. The equalisation of income and expenditure must be accomplished; and there must, at the same time, be a remission of taxes that press unfairly and prejudicially upon the industry or health of the people.

It is disgraceful to the civilization of Europe that all its chief States should have acted, and should continue to act, upon principles of financial extravagance, which would entail shame and ruin on private individuals. Great Britain has long been an offender, we will not say against common honesty, but certainly against ordinary prudence; and the adjustment long postponed must come sooner or later. States, like individuals, must set their houses in order, or pay the penalty; for financial difficulties are of a kind that will not be trifled with for ever. The day of reckoning may be procrastinated and reprocrastinated, but it will come at last—all the more gloomily and heavily from the delay. In a time of war, it was impossible to meet our difficulties without contracting debts; but in a time of peace, it is not creditable to our national character that we should have added to our liabilities, and have gone on from year to year increasing expenditure, when we ought to have diminished it; shutting our eyes against unpleasant realities, and trusting to the chapter of accidents to "make both ends meet." There is, however, a fair prospect that the matter will be taken in hand seriously as soon as Parliament shall re-assemble.

THE affairs of the Papal States make little progress towards a satisfactory solution. The Pope remains at Gaëta, surrounded by his Cardinals, and almost daily visited by the King and the nobilities of Naples. Tranquillity prevails in Rome, and a Supreme Junta has entered upon the exercise of authority. The convocation of a Constituent Assembly, to determine the ultimate destination and form of Government of the country, is under consideration; but neither the Pope nor the Junta seems anxious to precipitate matters in the meantime. The spiritual authority of the Pope does not appear to have ceased at Rome, however much his temporal authority may have been denied and resisted. The Christmas mass, which was usually performed at midnight, in St. Peter's, was ordered by the Pope to be performed at daybreak, and it was so performed accordingly, in the presence of a large concourse of the Romans. In anticipation of hostilities with Austria, the Junta is busily engaged in organising an efficient force, and volunteers continue to pour in from all parts of the States. Prince Barberini has left Rome for Gaëta, to attempt a conciliation between the Pope and his people.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

On Saturday last her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert inspected a finished etching by Samuel Cousins, A.R.A., of the forthcoming engraving from Winterhalter's picture of the Royal Family, which was submitted by Mr. Moon. On Sunday the Queen and his Royal Highness and the younger members of the Royal Family took an early walk in the Home-park. Her Majesty, the Prince, and ladies and gentlemen of the Royal household attended divine service in the Private Chapel. The service was performed and the sermon preached by the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay.

On Monday his Royal Highness, attended by Lord Byron, Sir Frederick Stovin, the Hon. Col. Phipps, and the Hon. Captain Gordon shot in Windsor Forest.

On Wednesday, Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duc de Nemours and Duc d'Aumale, and attended by Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps and Captain the Hon. A. Gordon, went out shooting in Windsor Park.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL returned to his residence in Richmond Park on Saturday from Windsor Castle.

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR'S GIFTS AT WINDSOR.—The distribution of her Majesty's New Year's gifts to 500 poor families of Windsor and Clewer took place on Monday morning in the presence of the Queen, Prince Albert, the juvenile branches of the Royal Family, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Royal household, in the new Riding School, in the Home-park. The interior of the spacious edifice (at the upper end of which, close to the Royal closet, were displayed the Royal standard of England, and a flag bearing the arms of Saxo Coburg and Gotha) was decorated with holly, as were also the tables ranged along the centre and sides of the Riding School, upon which were placed the various gifts to be presented to the poor of Windsor and Clewer. These consisted of 500 4 lb. loaves, and 720 lb. of plum-pudding, supplied by Messrs. Tull and Phillips; 1300 lb. of beef, supplied by Messrs. Hughes and Adams; 161 blankets and three scarlet cloaks, supplied by Mr. Cayley; and 1222 yards of calico and 628 yards of dannel, supplied by Messrs. Bird and Allen. Her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and Princesses Alice and Helena, and attended by a numerous suite, left the Castle at 9 o'clock, by the York and Lancaster gateway, walking across the Home Park to the Riding School, and during the distribution stationed themselves in the Queen's closet, which commanded an uninterrupted view of the gratifying scene below. Among those who were invited to witness the interesting ceremony were—the Hon. and Rev. Dean of Windsor, Lady Charlotte Neville Grenville and the Misses Neville, the Rev. Isaac Gossett, the Rev. Stephen Hawtrej, the Rev. R. J. Gould, the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay, the Mayor of Windsor, and the magistrates of the borough, the visiting ladies of the district charities, &c. The recipients of the Royal bounty were stationed at the western end of the Riding School, where they awaited the arrival of the Court. The distribution occupied upwards of an hour; at the conclusion the Royal party returned across the Home Park to the Castle. Her Majesty looked remarkably well, and in excellent health.

SERENADE TO HER MAJESTY ON NEW YEAR'S MORNING.—At the early hour of half-past 6, the band of the 2nd Regiment of Life Guards assembled in the Home Park, and stationed themselves beneath the bed-room window of her Majesty in the Augusta Tower, serenading the Queen and the Prince Consort with the following music:—Reveille, by Welch; Quick Step, by Kuhner; and the National Anthem. Mr. Weitzell, the leader, and the whole of the band, afterwards partook of breakfast in the Castle.

LARGE CHEESE.—There has just been received, by the packet ship *Margaret Evans*, from the United States, an immense cheese, made from the milk of seven hundred cows; its weight is 1474 pounds; its circumference is 13 feet, thickness 18 inches: every inch thick will weigh three-quarters of a hundredweight. It was exhibited at the great fair at New York, and gained the highest premium: made by Messrs. Austin and Stone, Ashtabula county, Ohio: purchased by Mr. John Craft, 20, Philpot-lane City.

FIRES IN LONDON DURING 1848.—On Monday Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent of the London fire-engine establishment, made his annual return of the fires which had occurred during the past year in the metropolitan district. The return includes every disaster that had taken place by fire up to twelve o'clock on Sunday night, from which it appears that the premises totally destroyed and considerably damaged were 296. The number of buildings slightly damaged by fire, water, &c., were 509, making a total number of fires of 805. The false alarms to which the engines and firemen had been called were 120. There had been 86 chimneys on fire to which the firemen had given their attendance. The total number of calls for assistance was 1011. There had been 10 fatal fires, and the number of lives lost were 2 firemen and 12 private individuals. The most disastrous fires were those at New-crane, Shadwell, where Percy and Hancock, two of the brigade from Wellclose-square station, were crushed to death by the falling of the floors of a steam corn-mill, owing to the great weight of the machinery in the upper floors; that which recently occurred in Gray's inn-lane, where a husband and wife perished; the one in the White-chapel-road, where two persons were burned to death; and the extensive chit-mill in Mary-street, Whitechapel, where a man was killed by one of the walls falling upon him. The explosion in Albany-street, Regent's-park, is especially alluded to in the return, the different buildings damaged on that occasion being upwards of 100. The yearly average of fires in the metropolis for the last fifteen years is thus given, which shows a large increase in their number. Premises totally destroyed and considerably damaged, 216. Slightly damaged, 428. The total was, therefore, 644 fires; 75 false alarms, 95 chimneys; and the total of calls for fires and false alarms 814, showing an increase of 197 this year over the average of former years. During the same period seven firemen had lost their lives in the execution of their duty, and 239 private individuals had been burned to death. This return does not include the number of children who annually perish through their clothes taking fire, but merely those who have been known to be burned in the fires attended by the brigade.

POSTSCRIPT.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN EDINBURGH.

One of the most destructive conflagrations that has occurred in Edinburgh for a considerable period took place early on Wednesday morning, at the station of the Caledonian Railway, in Lothian-road. The station consists of a range of three buildings, the one to the north being the temporary passenger shed, the one in the centre being the goods shed, and the one to the south being the passenger shed of the new station, which has been for some time in the course of construction. The fire originated in one of the trucks attached to the goods train from Carlisle, which reached the Edinburgh station shortly after two o'clock in the morning. The work of destruction was so rapid that it could not be properly ascertained whether the ignition of the truck arose from friction or from a spark from the engine; but it is conjectured that the latter was the more probable cause. The goods in the truck were of a light description, and were easily consumed; together with a large quantity of the same kind, in the shed, and in other trucks contiguous.

The burning was ultimately got under between six and seven o'clock; but not until almost the whole of the goods shed was destroyed, a great portion of the southern passenger one, and about one hundred feet of the northern one. The officials of the company estimate the damage at between £6000 and £7000; but it is said that this will not near cover it.

DETENTION OF THE MAILS BY THE SNOW.—On Friday (yesterday) morning several of the mail bags, brought by the northern mails, were detained in consequence of obstructions caused by a sudden and exceedingly dense fall of snow on the Trent Valley line. In many parts of the line the snow lay from two to three feet deep; and near Tamworth it was full four feet deep. Farther north, the fall had been very considerable. The bags were about an hour behind in consequence, but the delivery of letters was made about the usual time, so that the delay was not felt by the public.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

On Thursday, at mid-day, the formal installation of General Jerome Bonaparte ex-King of Westphalia, as Governor of the Hôtel of the Invalides, took place. The Invalides were formed into a square, dressed out in their dress equipments. Among them were several who left their sick-beds to do honour to the brother of the Emperor.

After the ceremony of proclamation, the ex-King addressed the old soldiers in suitable terms. His speech was received with loud cheering. The new Governor, surrounded by the remains of the *grand armée*, then proceeded to the chapel, where prayers were said. He remained for a considerable time in the part of the church where the remains of the Emperor are deposited. He then visited the dining-room, sleeping-places, and infirmary. The *Moniteur* publishes a decree of the President of the Republic, dated 2nd inst., appointing Vice-Admiral Cécile Ambassador of France to the Court of Great Britain; and M. Lagrene Plenipotentiary of the French Republic at the conferences about to be opened at Brussels, for the settlement of the Italian question.

ITALY.

ROME.—Our latest advices state that the Ministry, having promised the deputations of the clubs that the question of the Constituent Assembly should be decided on the 26th, and having pressed the adoption of that measure on the Chambers, on that day the latter refused to comply, to the great exasperation of the people; and the Ministers, in consequence, announced that, on the following day, they would of themselves promulgate the measure.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.—Pursuant to directions issued by the Bishop of London, the metropolitan clergy are actively engaged within their respective districts, forming, for the instruction of young men released from business by the progress of the early closing movement—evening classes in Greek, Hebrew, Latin, Mechanics, Philosophy, Drawing, &c.; the instructors, chiefly clergymen, will give their services gratuitously. Rewards for proficiency, and honorary certificates for attendance, to be granted to the young men. Seventeen of these classes have already been established in the metropolis.

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA AT AN INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.—During Tuesday and Wednesday, the members of the boards of guardians of the various metropolitan parishes and unions who farm out their pauper children at Mr. Drouet's Infant Poor Establishment at Tooting, were considerably alarmed at the receipt of information that cholera of a most fatal character had broken out amongst the children. Mr. Drouet has under his care from 1400 to 1500 children of both sexes farmed out to him, under the sanction of the Poor-Law Commissioners, from various metropolitan parishes and unions, for whom each parish pays 3s. 6d. per head per week. The children exhibited their usual healthy appearance up to Friday (last week), when, in some of the wards, several children were attacked with severe diarrhoea, and in two or three instances the cases assumed the form of Asiatic cholera, and were treated accordingly; but, in some few of the cases death ensued in the short space of three hours. Every hour brought new patients, and undoubted evidence manifesting itself that the epidemic was extending its baneful influence to others. Dr. Addison, of Guy's Hospital, was sent for, to consult with the resident medical officers. Up to that time fifty-seven cases and twelve deaths had occurred. Officers from the various parishes were summoned to Tooting, and the establishment was examined, when it was found that the drains of the buildings emptied themselves into an extensive ditch abutting on the ground, and which it was believed might have a prejudicial effect. The united opinion of all the medical gentlemen assembled concurred in stating the disease to have arisen from atmospheric poison, and not from the food the patients had taken. Information of the occurrence has been forwarded to the Poor-Law Board, Somerset-house, as also to Mr. Carter, the Coroner for Surrey, but it is not known whether any official inquiry will be instituted.

MOUNT ST. BERNARD HOSPICE ASYLUM.—The half-yearly report of this institution, which is in connexion with the Leicester-square Soup Kitchen, states that, from the 16th of July to 26th December last, 80,008 rations of soup and bread have been distributed to indigent persons. Under the classes to which these wretched recipients belong are some curious entries. There are, of dissenting ministers, 2; surgeons, 2; one chemist; one retired officer; surveyors, 2; law-stationers, 2; one law-writer; clerks, 38; schoolmasters, 5; one governess; artists, 4; actors, 3; shopkeepers, 9; shop-assistants, 105; artisans of various trades, 9397 males, 610 females; butlers, 3; and other domestic servants, 121 males, 319 females; needlewomen, 478; railway labourers, 409; field labourers, 287; resident destitute poor, 7500 males, 11,074 females; wandering destitute poor, 283 males, 509 females; wives and children of artisans, 9920; sailors, 29; foreigners, 17 males, 5 females; and 1403 children of both sexes. In addition to the vast amount of relief afforded to the poor, forty-eight "street orderlies" belonging to the National Philanthropic Association have been provided for since September last. Not a few of these men have been taken from the workhouses in the metropolis, and the remainder destitute and forlorn wanderers have been furnished with work. In the Refuge belonging to these establishments, since its opening on the 20th of March to the 26th December, 1848, a clean bed by night, with a good supper and breakfast, has been afforded to 4540 men, 2221 women, and 117 children; in all, 6878 persons. Thirty-nine destitute young females, having good references to character, and having been for some time watched over by the matron, have been by her recommended to situations; whilst not less than 117 other female servants sheltered in this hospice, and evidently rescued from destitution and crime, have by their own exertions obtained situations, and subsequently visiting the matron, have returned thanks for the timely aid afforded them. It is also gratifying to state that 243 artisans of various callings, who have been inmates of this asylum, have, since they obtained employment, called to return thanks for the relief they received whilst destitute.

THE GALLERIES AT THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The person who has hitherto rented the galleries from the Sheriffs at the rate of £21 per session, refused, at the last session, to continue to pay that sum any longer, alleging that it exceeded the receipts. The Sheriffs took the opportunity thus offered in making the new regulations, which came into operation on Monday last, and now an uniform charge of 1s. each for admission is established. There have been occasional when half-a-guinea, and even a guinea, has been demanded. The receipts in the Old Court gallery on Monday amounted to 2s.; in the New Court gallery to 9s.; the Old Court gallery on Tuesday yielded 18s., and on Thursday £2 10s. The money-takers receive 7s. a day.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN THE CITY PRISONS.—On New Year's Day, by the order and gift of the Lord Mayor, Sir James Duke, M.P., the prisoners confined for debt in Whitecross-street Prison, to the number of 200, received a gratuity in the substantial shape of, to each prisoner, 1 lb. of beef, 1 lb. of potatoes, 1 lb. of bread, and 1 pint of porter, in addition to which there were several other minor gifts from several of the civic companies and others, which are annually distributed, at the discretion of the Governor, among the poorer class of prisoners. In Newgate, the Compter, and other City prisons, a similar allowance of beef, bread, and potatoes was distributed to each prisoner—the gift of the Lord Mayor, the distribution on Christmas Day being at the expense of the Sheriffs, Alderman Finnis and J. G. Goodhart, Esq. The City prisons are the only criminal prisons in the metropolis where any departure from the ordinary allowance is permitted either on Christmas or New Year's Day.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DEC. 30.—The number of births registered during the above week was 1458, of which 733 were males and 725 females, being 63 more than the births of the preceding week. The deaths registered were 1403 in number, being 55 less than the births, and 249 more than the weekly average. This excess appears large, but it must be remembered that the number refers to deaths registered. The excess is only to a slight extent produced by increased mortality; it is chiefly due to an accumulation of coroners' cases, many of which occurred in former weeks, but were not registered till the end of the quarter. Scarlatina (the mortality from which is double the average) and typhus continue to be the only epidemics which prevail to an excessive degree. In the above table, coroners' cases fall principally under violent and sudden deaths.

LARGE PIKE.—Sir Lionel Eldred Smith, when trolling at Hampton Court, on the 27th ult., killed a pike which measured 4 ft. 6 inches in length, and weighed 21 pounds.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

EDWARD, EARL OF OXFORD AND MORTIMER.



This venerable nobleman, who had nearly completed his 76th year, was son of the Hon. and Right Rev. John Harley, Bishop of Hereford, and succeeded, on the decease of his uncle, in 1790, to the family honours, which were originally conferred on the celebrated statesman, Robert Harley, in 1711. That distinguished personage, who acted so prominent a part in the political struggles of his time, is immortalised by Pope:—

A soul supreme, in each hard instance tried,
Above all pain, all anger, and all pride;
The rage of power, the blast of public breath,
The lust of lucre and the dread of death.

Edward, fifth Earl, whose death we record, was born 20th February, 1773; and married, 3rd March, 1794, Jane Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. James Scott, by which lady (who died 20th November, 1824) he leaves one surviving son, Alfred, now Earl of Oxford and Mortimer; and four daughters, the eldest of whom, Jane, is married to Lord Langdale.

GEORGE, EARL OF AUCKLAND.

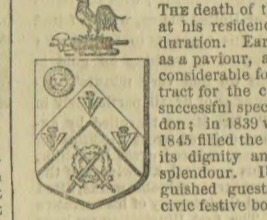


The last twelve months have proved fatal to some of the most distinguished members of the Whig party. Lord Melbourne, Charles Butler, and the lamented nobleman whose death we now record, have left a void which will not soon be filled up. All were, independently of the elevated position they attained to in politics, remarkable for their kindness of heart, and the universal esteem and regard in which they were held.

George Eden, Earl of Auckland, was born 20th August, 1784, the second son of William, first Lord Auckland, by Eleanor his wife, sister of the late Earl of Minto. In 1809 he was called to the Bar by the Society of Lincoln's-inn; but becoming in the following year heir apparent to the family title, by the death of his elder brother, he abandoned the forensic for the political arena. In 1810 he entered Parliament as member for Woodstock, and in 1814 succeeded his father as Baron Auckland. In 1830, on the formation of Lord Grey's Cabinet, his Lordship took office as President of the Board of Trade. In 1834 he became, for the brief interval of four months, First Lord of the Admiralty; in 1835 he assumed the important post of Governor-General of India; and, in 1846, he returned to his former office as head of the Admiralty Board, the duties of which he discharged with a degree of ability that has commanded universal approbation. His Lordship's death occurred most suddenly. On Saturday last, while shooting at Lord Ashburton's, he was seized with a paralytic attack, which terminated fatally on the morning of Monday. "The Earl of Auckland," says a distinguished contemporary, "though summoned unexpectedly, descends to the tomb, if not full of age, at least having acquired a competent share of honours; and, though he leaves no son to inherit his Earldom, yet a numerous and attached circle of friends may regard the degree of fame which he had acquired with just complacency, and may refer to his unspotted integrity with unqualified and honourable pride."

His Lordship never married, and is succeeded in the barony of Auckland (the earldom expires) by his brother, Robert John, Bishop of Sodor and Man, who is married, and has a large family.

ALDERMAN JOHNSON.



THE death of this worthy Alderman occurred on the 30th ult., at his residence at Millbank, after an illness of some months' duration. Early in life Mr. Johnson was extensively engaged as a paviour, and he subsequently inherited from his father a considerable fortune, which he greatly increased by his contract for the celebrated Breakwater at Plymouth and other successful speculations. In 1836 he served as Sheriff of London; in 1839 was elected Alderman of Dowgate Ward; and in 1845 filled the Civic Chair, maintaining during his Mayoralty its dignity and hospitality in a state of almost unrivalled splendour. Ibrahim Pacha was one of the many distinguished guests who honoured him with his presence at the civic festive board.

SIR AUGUSTUS FREDERICK D'ESTE, K.C.H.

SIR AUGUSTUS died last week. He was son of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, by the Lady Augusta Murray, daughter of the fourth Earl of Dunmore, whom his Royal Highness married at Rome on the 4th April, 1793, and subsequently in London on the 5th of the following December. The contract was, however, declared null and void by the Archbishops' Court; and a recent claim preferred by Sir Augustus D'Este to his father's honours was rejected by the House of Lords. Sir Augustus was born in 1794. At an early age he entered the army as Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, and served in America, taking part in the attack upon New Orleans, and acting as Aide-de-Camp to Sir John Lambert. He became successively Captain in the 9th Lancers, Major of the 4th Royal Irish Dragoons, and full Colonel in the Army. He was also Deputy-Ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks. He never married. His only sister, Augusta, is wife of the Right Hon. Sir Thomas Wilde, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

WELCH SCHOOLS.—A very numerous signed petition has been addressed to the Lords of the Committee of the Council of Education, on the appointment of the Rev. H. L. Jones, of Beaumaris, as an Inspector of Schools. The memorialists conclude that the Welch districts will be committed to his superintendence, and state it as their opinion that the reverend gentleman is unacquainted with the Welch tongue as colloquially spoken, and therefore cannot conduct a school examination without exciting the ridicule and mockery of the children. As their Lordships, in a letter of the 16th of December last to the Rev. W. H. Owen, of St. Asaph, stated that a knowledge of the Welch language would be considered an indispensable qualification of the inspector to whom the Welch district would be intrusted, the memorialists pray that their Lordships would redeem their pledge by causing the Rev. H. L. Jones to be subjected to an examination by competent judges, as to his proficiency in reading, writing, and above all in speaking the Welch language.

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY AND THE NATIONAL SOCIETY.—An address signed by above four hundred members of the National Society, has been forwarded to the Archbishop of Canterbury, requesting his Grace to convene a public meeting for the purpose of considering what course ought to be adopted with respect to the Committee of the Council of Education, on the much vexed question of money grants, and the conditions. The Archbishop declines to comply with the request on the ground that "the measure has no precedent in the practice of the society," and from which his Grace sees no advantage at all commensurate with the inconveniences and dangers.

BISHOP OF EXETER.—A very numerous public meeting was held at Plymouth a short time since, to memorialize the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject of the present state of the diocese of Exeter. The memorialists are of opinion that the Bishop of Exeter is too favourable to what are usually understood as Puseyite doctrines. The Rev. W. Maskell, one of his Lordship's chaplains, gave great offence to many of the clergy by a sermon which he preached at the last visitation of the Bishop. A lengthened correspondence ensued between some of the clergy, hostile to the opinions of the chaplain and the Bishop, but without any result. The memorial above mentioned makes this sermon one ground of complaint. Two replies to Mr. Maskell's discourse are already announced.

ORDINATION.—The Bishop of Manchester will hold an ordination at the Cathedral Church of Manchester on Sunday, the 21st of the present month. The Bishop of Lichfield, on the 24th ult., ordained, at Eccleshaw Castle, 16 deacons and 13 priests.

CONSECRATIONS.—By the Bishop of Manchester: a new church at Lumb, the 9th ult.; a new church at Great Marsden, on the 22nd; a new church at Inskip, on the 27th; a chapel at Garstang, on the 28th—making, in all, 13 churches and chapels since February last.

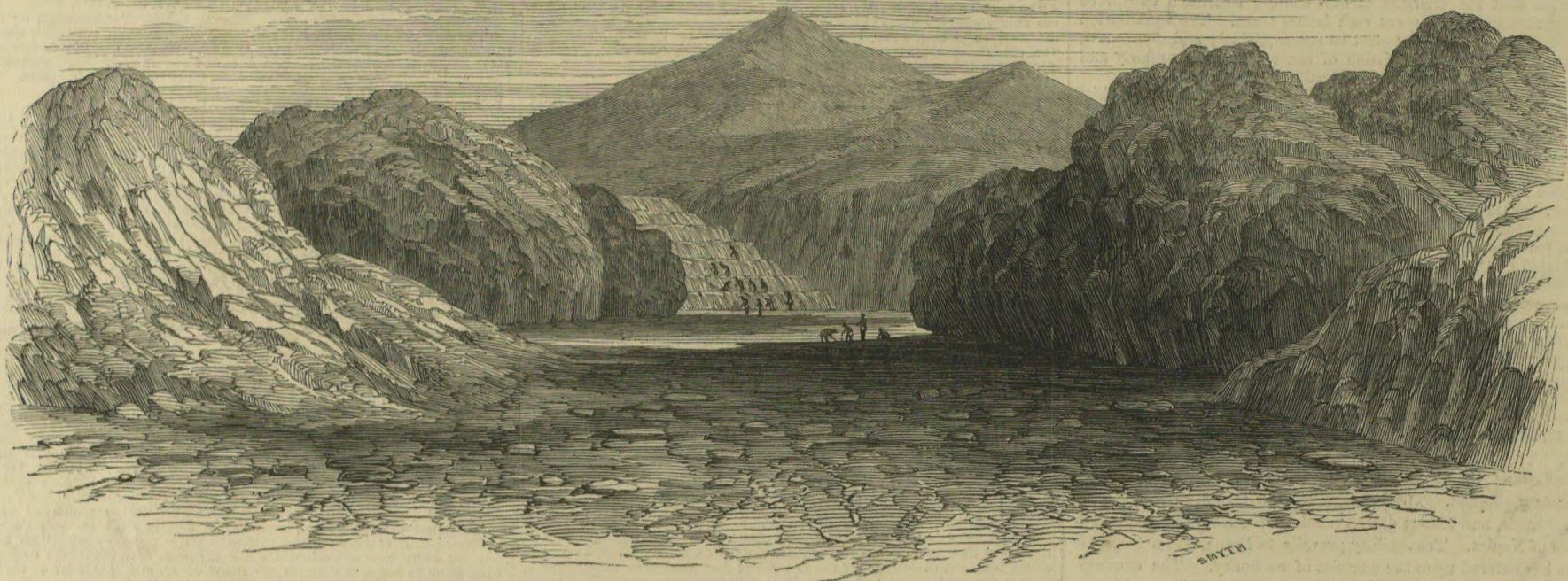
TESTIMONIAL.—A valuable gold watch and appendages, with a pencil-case, and a Commentary upon the Bible, were presented to the Rev. R. C. We-ton, Curate of Darlaston, on his quitting that town to enter upon the duties of the Bewdley Chapelry.

HULSEAN LECTURER.—The Rev. W. G. Humphry, the 27th wrangler, senior Classic, and junior Chancellor's Medallist, 1837, Fellow of Trinity College, has been appointed Hulsean Lecturer.

RAILWAYS.—On an average of six of the leading railways, they suffer to the extent of £100,000 a year by depredations and negligence. They also pay £200,000 a year to the Government tax of five per cent. on the fares of first and second class passengers; £200,000 a year for parish rates and taxes, for land and second class passengers; £200,000 a year for parish rates and taxes, for land and second class passengers; £200,000 a year for parish rates and taxes, for land and second class passengers. These are in addition to stamps, which have averaged another £100,000 a year, and tithes property, and income-tax, &c., all levied in the most capricious manner. A reduction would give one per cent. to dividends, or twenty-five per cent. reduction to passengers. (See Nash on Railway Management.)—From a Correspondent.

ST. CLEMENT'S BURIAL-GROUND.—It appears from the last quarterly report of King's College Hospital, that there is every prospect of the above burial-ground being closed as a place of interment, and so afford an open space that will be most advantageous to the densely populated district around it. The authorities of the hospital have done much to improve the health of the neighbourhood by the purchase of the ground adjoining the present institution, and by the removal of the pig-sties and bedding-houses in Clement's-lane. The space might also eventually be made advantageous as an airing ground for the patients of the hospital.

EARL TALBOT'S REMINGTON BRIDGE.—An extraordinary bridge of this kind has been recently erected over the Trent, near Ingestrie, in Staffordshire, on an accommodation road leading from Ingestrie to Shirleywich. It is strong, cheap, and durable, although of 150 feet span, without any intervening support.



A GOLD WASHING.

GOLD WASHING.

The recent discovery of vast deposits of gold in Upper California, with the latest intelligence received by Wednesday's mail from the United States, will be found elsewhere in our present Number. Our object, in this place, is to furnish the reader with correct information as to the mode adopted in washing for gold in other countries—in Brazil, for example; and this we find very minutely described in Mr. Mawe's valuable "Travels in the Interior of Brazil, particularly in the Gold and Diamond Districts of that Country." Mr. Mawe travelled by authority of the Prince Regent of Portugal, and thus enjoyed great facilities for his researches, notwithstanding he, in some instances, endured great hardships. His extensive acquaintance with mineralogy, and his practical knowledge of the science, upon which he has written and published some truly valuable works, fitted our traveller especially for these investigations: and the integrity of his narrative of adventures has been invariably accredited. The first illustration we have selected is a View of a Gold Washing at Jaragua, near Saint Paul's, in the Gold District. These mines of Jaragua were the first discovered in the country; and they were famed for the immense treasures they produced nearly two centuries since, when, at the ports of Santos and St. Vincent, whence the gold was

ground is cut in steps, each twenty or thirty feet wide, two or three broad, and about one deep. Near the bottom a trench is cut to the depth of two or three feet. On each step stand six or eight negroes, who, as the water flows gently from above, keep the earth continually in motion with shovels, until the whole is reduced to liquid mud, and washed below. The particles of gold contained in this earth descend to the trench, where, by reason of their specific gravity, they quickly precipitate. Workmen are continually employed at the trench to remove the stones, and clear away the surface, which operation is much assisted by the current of water which falls into it.

cious metal, separating from the inferior and lighter substances, settles to the bottom and sides of the vessel. They then rinse their bowls in a larger vessel of clean water, leaving the gold in it, and begin again.

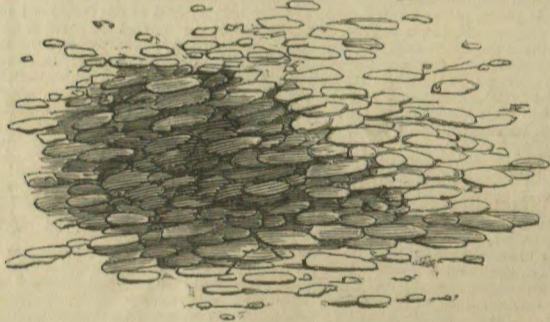
"The washing of each bowl-full occupies from five to eight or nine minutes: the gold produced is extremely variable in quantity and the size of its particles—some of which are so minute, that they float, while others are found as large as peas, and not unfrequently much larger. This operation is superintended by overseers, as the result is of considerable importance.

"When the whole is finished, the gold is borne home to be dried, and at a convenient time is taken to the permutation office, where it is weighed, and a fifth is reserved for the Prince. The remainder is smelted by fusion with muriate of mercury, cast into ingots, assayed, and stamped according to its intrinsic value—a certificate of which is given with it; after a copy of that instrument has been duly entered at the Mint Office, the ingots circulate as specie."

The second illustration shows more distinctly this mode of washing with the bowls, or *gamellas*; while the first scene is that of the "Washing," as the locality is technically termed.

SPECIMENS OF GOLD.

We are indebted for the accompanying illustrations of the conditions in which gold is found to Mr. Tennant, Professor of Mineralogy in King's College, London, who has obligingly placed at the service of our Artist the series of specimens whence these Engravings have been carefully copied.



GOLD DUST.

shipped for Europe, this district was regarded as the Peru of Brazil. Mr. Mawe thus describes the modes of Washing:—

"The face of the country is uneven and rather mountainous. The rock, where it is exposed, appears to be primitive granite, inclining to gneiss, with a portion of hornblende, and frequently mica. The soil is red, and remarkably ferruginous, in many places apparently of great depth. The gold lies, for the most part, in a stratum of rounded pebbles and gravel, called *cascalhao*, immediately incumbent on the solid rock. In the valleys, where there is water, occur frequent excavations made by the gold-washers, to a considerable extent, some of them fifty or a hundred feet wide, and eighteen or twenty feet deep. On many of the hills, where water can be collected for washing, particles of gold are found in the soil little deeper than the roots of the grass.

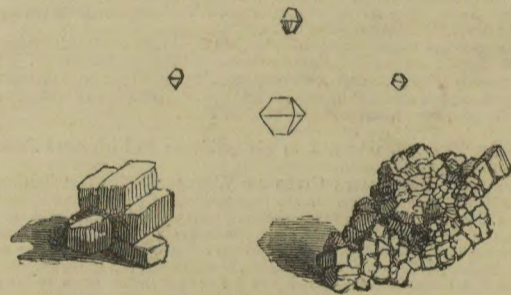
"The mode of working these mines, more fitly to be denominated *washings*, is simple, and may be easily explained.

"Suppose a loose, gravel-like stratum of rounded quartzose pebbles and adventitious matter incumbent on granite, and covered by earthy matter of variable thickness. Where water of sufficiently high level can be commanded, the



FOLIATED GOLD WITH QUARTZ.

"After five days' waiting, the precipitation in the trench is carried to some convenient stream, to undergo a second clearance. For this purpose, wooden bowls are provided, of a funnel shape, about two feet wide at the mouth, and five or six inches deep, called *gamellas*. Each workman, standing in the stream, takes into his bowl five or six pounds weight of the sediment, which generally consists of heavy matter, such as oxide of iron, pyrites, ferruginous quartz, &c., of a dark carbonaceous hue. They admit certain quantities of water into the bowls, which they move about so dexterously, that the pre-



CRYSTALS OF GOLD.

Rounded water-worn pebble of gold with quartz, weighing 9 oz. 14 dwts.; it contains upwards of six ounces of gold. Brazil. (Stowe collection, No. 2724).

Foliated gold with quartz, from Mexico. (Stowe collection, No. 2727).

Flat grains and particles of gold, separated from the alluvial soil by washing, commonly termed "gold dust," from the west coast of South America.

Crystals of gold, brought by the late Mr. Mawe from Brazil.

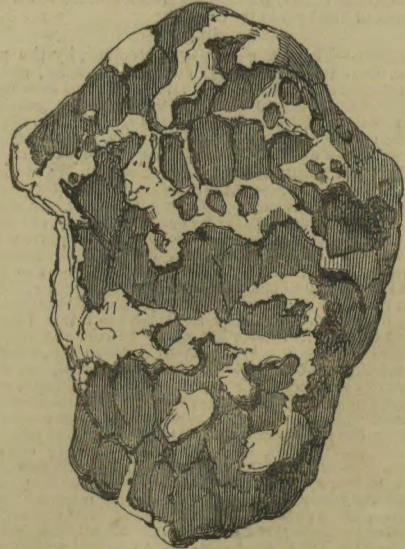
Detached octahedron (2720 of Stowe collection), from Transylvania.

Three of these specimens were in the Mineralogical Collection at Stowe, where they were purchased by Mr. Tennant. Some of the crystals were brought by Mr. Mawe from Vilho do Principe: he says, "At a washing about six leagues distant, a lump of gold was found of several pounds weight." From the same place Mr. Mawe procured some above two ounces, and obtained the large crystals, one of which is considered unique.

CHARACTERS OF GOLD.

Mr. Tennant has also favoured us with the following notes on substances resembling gold in appearance; viz. iron and copper pyrites, and mica. Gold differs from them in the following particulars:—

1. In specific gravity: that of gold being seventeen times greater than water, that of iron pyrites 7.5 (or 7.6), of copper pyrites 4.3, and of mica 3.
2. Gold may be cut with a knife like lead, may be bent and beat out into very thin leaves; but iron pyrites cannot be cut or even scratched with a knife; copper pyrites is brittle; mica is foliated and very elastic.



ROUNDED WATER-WORN PEBBLE OF GOLD WITH QUARTZ.

1. Under the action of the blowpipe gold retains its colour, but copper pyrite, and iron pyrites instantly lose it; the latter, also, becomes magnetic.
4. Gold is also not acted upon by nitric, muriatic, or sulphuric acid singly; but when the two former are combined it is then soluble. If any of the other three minerals be reduced to powder, either of these acids will readily act upon them.

Next week, we shall resume our illustration with Views in Upper California, where the gold deposits have just been discovered.



WASHING FOR GOLD.



OLD STYLE—THE MAIL COACH.—FROM A PICTURE BY HENDERSON.

THE MAIL COACHES.

O LUXURY of travel! joy refined!
 To fly, steam-barnes'd, in the ponderous train
 And feel the victory of mighty mind
 O'er space and time, for uses not in vain!
 Yet ever in this world must loss and gain
 Balance each other. Is it speed we prize?
 'Tis edged with danger, equipoised by pain
 And aids our business but to cheat our eyes.
 Th' unsocial Rail affords no varied pleasure
 Like yours, ye coaches of a former day:

Apt for our haste, delightful for our leisure,
 We miss the cantering team, the winding way,
 The road-side halt, the post-horn's well-known air,
 The inns, the gaping towns, and all the landscape fair.

THE ARRIVING TRAIN.

(From "Legends of the Isles and other Poems," by Charles Mackay.)

BEHOLD, smoke-panoplied, the wond'rous car,
 Strong and impetuous, but obedient still;
 Behold it comes, loud panting, from afar,

As if it lived, and of its own fierce will
 Ran a free race with wild winds blowing shrill!
 Fire-bowell'd, iron-ribb'd, of giant length,
 Snake-like it comes exulting in its strength,
 The pride of art—the paragon of skill,
 Triumph of mind! what hand thy bound shall mark?
 Lo! through the curtain of the coming time,
 Seen looming palpably 'mid cloud and dark,
 Yet other triumphs, more than this sublime,
 Rise numerous on the far-seeing ken
 Of those who watch, and hope the good of men. C. M.



NEW STYLE—THE MAIL TRAIN.

COUNTRY NEWS.

ROBBERY OF THE MAILS ON THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

A series of robberies of the most extraordinary and extensive character were perpetrated on the up and down mails traversing the Great Western Railway during the night of Monday last.

The up mail leaving Plymouth at 6.35 p.m., and Exeter at 9 p.m., on Monday, arrived at Bridgewater at its usual hour—half-past ten o'clock. At this station various bags of letters which had accumulated in the post-office during the trip were, in accordance with the usual custom of the guard, placed in a tender immediately at the rear of the post-office, and securely locked up. The train which, in addition to the post-office and tender, consisted of about six or seven first and second class carriages, left Bridgewater in due course and proceeded on its journey to Bristol; the run between these two places being timed to occupy one hour and ten minutes, without stoppage at any station. On the arrival of the train at Bristol shortly before midnight, the guard went to the tender in the rear of the post-office, in order to deliver the Bristol bags, when he discovered that all the bags had been more or less tampered with, some being cut open, and others having the seals broken and strings untied. A very cursory examination of their contents satisfied him that all the money and registered letters, as well as the bankers' parcels, had been abstracted, and without a moment's loss of time he communicated, first, with the two travelling post-office clerks accompanying the mail, and subsequently with the post-office authorities at Bristol.

The discovery, of course, occasioned extreme consternation among the officials. The guard was quite positive the bags were safe when the train left Bridgewater, and as no stoppage had taken place between that town and the city of Bristol, it was self-evident that the robbery must have been effected by some parties travelling by the train, and while it was in motion. After a few moments' consultation, it was resolved to send the metropolitan bags on to London in the state in which the guard had discovered them; and accordingly the train left Bristol on its upward journey after a very short delay.

On reaching town at an early hour on Tuesday morning the guard proceeded to the Post-office, in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and made a report of the circumstances above detailed. The various bags were immediately subjected to examination, when it was found that not only had the whole of the registered letters and bankers' parcels been abstracted, but in some cases the "bills" on which all registered letters and valuable parcels are entered were also missing, so that it is at present impossible to say how far the plunder has extended. As a precautionary measure, information was forwarded by the Post-office authorities to the various City banking-houses, so that a check might be put upon the disposal of the contents of the stolen letters. At the same time active measures were taken in order to obtain a clue to the depredators; and in the course of the morning Mr. Seymour Clarke, superintendent of the Great Western Railway, in company with two or three officials of the Post-office, left Paddington for Bristol, in order to investigate the affair.

In the afternoon, and while Colonel Maberly was engaged, with several of his officers, on matters connected with the above affair, information reached town of a second robbery—precisely similar in character—perpetrated on the down mail, which left London at 8.55 p.m., on the same evening. In this case, the bags deposited in the tender were perfectly safe on the arrival of the train at Bristol, at a quarter past one, a.m. On the tender being opened at Bridgewater, a scene similar to that previously observed at Bristol presented itself. All the bags were more or less mutilated and disturbed, and the more valuable contents abstracted therefrom. Happily, in this instance, the vigilance of the parties in charge of the train resulted in the capture of the supposed thieves; and there seems great reason to believe that the persons who effected the first robbery were also the perpetrators of the second.

The parties alluded to are two men of respectable appearance, both of whom travelled in a first-class carriage, occupying the next compartment to the Post-office tender. The Great Western carriages have a division in the centre, by which means each compartment is made to form a distinct carriage, as it were. In one side of this compartment, next the down platform, a gentleman, who slept throughout the journey, and is known to be a respectable solicitor, was seated alone. The other side was occupied by the two individuals in question, who had taken care to draw down the blinds of the door of the compartment. Their implication in the affair is placed beyond all manner of doubt by the discovery of several registered letters and money parcels in the carriage in which they rode. Immediately upon their apprehension, they were conveyed to Exeter, to be brought up for examination before the magistrates.

The presumption now entertained by those best calculated to form an opinion is that both robberies were effected in the same manner, viz., by parties who rode in a first-class carriage first contriving to occupy the next compartment to the post-office tender, and subsequently, when the train was in motion, at the imminent risk of their lives, leaving their carriage and stepping at once on to the tender, and then traversing the narrow ledge running along that carriage until they came to the door, which there can be little doubt they were previously prepared to unlock. This done, there would be little difficulty to overcome. The tender is always well lighted by a lamp suspended from the centre of the roof, and having once obtained entrance, an expert thief would speedily abstract the booty. In addition to the letters found, a woolstapler's hook—which it is supposed was used by the thieves to hang on to the tender, when leaving the first-class carriage—was also discovered. The ledge along which they must have walked to obtain entrance to the tender is only an inch and a half wide. There were also discovered two black masks in one of the pockets of the carriage, and a pair of false moustachios upon one of the two parties apprehended.

The impudence of the second robbery, immediately following upon the first, is incomprehensible. It can only be described as one of those short-sighted acts by which offenders against the law very often bring themselves within its meshes. Had the thieves known, as is the fact, that the same two post-office clerks who travel with the up mail to Bristol return with the down mail to Bridgewater, probably they would have been content with their first plunder, and escaped for some time, at least, with impunity.

Doubtless, in future, if the bags from the Post-office must continue to be placed in a tender, a guard will be appointed to travel with them.

EXAMINATION OF THE SUPPOSED ROBBERS.—At the Guildhall, Exeter, the parties against whom suspicion rests were brought before the magistrates on Tuesday, and the evidence of Mr. Barlow, one of the Directors of the Great Western Company, who was a passenger from London to Exeter in the same train with the prisoners, of the guards, and of other railway officers, establishing the facts above mentioned, was received.—One of the prisoners refused to give his name, and is quite unknown; the other is named Henry Poole, and was for some time in the service of the Great Western Railway Company as a guard.—They were remanded until Saturday (this day).

None of the property plundered from the up-mail has yet been found. One of the registered letters stolen from this mail, it is stated, contained £4000; and the loss, so far as at present known, unquestionably amounts to fifty times that sum. Colonel Maberly, the Secretary of the Post-office, and Mr. Peacock, the Post-office solicitor, are engaged in arranging plans for the full development of the whole affair.

In another part of the paper will be found an engraving which represents a mail-train as it appears on the Great Western Railway, and its contrast, the old "mail-coach" of other days.

A MELODRAMATIC SMUGGLER.—A few days ago, at the Plymouth police court, Francois Mellending, a Frenchman, was charged with smuggling half a gallon of French brandy. One of the customs' officers who was standing on the quay the night before, while the defendant and four others came on shore, suspecting Mellending, he seized him; whereupon, with a melodramatic start, he plunged a knife into his bosom, and the "stream of life" poured forth most copiously. The officer, fearing that the wound would be fatal, not to the Frenchman's life, but to his own seizure, tore open the waistcoat of his prisoner and found a bladder, which had been full of brandy, but now half emptied of its contents by the ruthless knife. The bladder was handed over to the tide-surveyor, who now produced it. A glass of the brandy was poured out, which was tasted by the court and others. The defendant looked at the glass, and stated, through an interpreter, that it did not look like his brandy, and requested the favour of tasting also. The glass was handed to him, and, with a smiling countenance, he placed it to his lips, but no sooner had it got there than the liquor disappeared with more than usual rapidity, much to the amusement of those present; and having finished it, he exclaimed, "Bon! bon! à mon estomac!" The defendant was fined 20s.

MR. BAILY'S STATUE OF CHIEF JUSTICE TINDAL AT CHELMSFORD.—The committee last week finally settled the arrangement with the artist by binding themselves to the payment of a certain amount, at the same time pledging themselves to assist in raising the remainder of the sum which is necessary to fairly remunerate Mr. Baily for the talent and labour bestowed upon this production. The statue is to be of bronze, three tons of the material, we understand, being used in the work, and will be placed on a pedestal of stone. Mr. Baily visited Chelmsford on Monday, and selected a site in front of the Shire Hall as most appropriate for the statue; but, as the soil belongs to the county, the sanction of the magistrates for a sufficient piece of ground will be applied for—a request, we have no doubt, they will readily accede to.

THE REV. W. J. ODGERS has published a letter in the Plymouth papers, urging that the premises purchased by the Corporation at an expense of £600, now lying unoccupied and useless, should be applied to the purposes they were intended for, viz. wash-houses; and adduces the fact, that there are in Plymouth more than 11,000 persons who are living in single rooms, and who, for the want of such an institution, are obliged to wash, and in wet weather to dry, their clothes in the same room in which they cook, eat, and sleep.

AN EMIGRATION MARRIAGE.—A young woman, servant at Stonehouse, having become ill of typhus fever, was removed to the workhouse in Devonport, where, in a short time, she recovered, and having stated her wish to go to Australia, begged of the parish authorities the necessary sum of £2 12s. which must be paid to the Emigration Society. The request was complied with. Whilst in the company's office at Plymouth a few days ago, she was asked by a respectable individual if she intended to emigrate. On replying in the affirmative, he said, "I like your appearance; I'll marry you, if you have no objection." After some other remarks, he accompanied her to the lady's residence where she lived previous to her illness, and received an excellent character. He forthwith purchased the license, and they were married on Sunday last. She had a good outfit provided, and the £2 10s. from the parish authorities was respectfully declined.

LANGPORT.—AN EAGLE SHOT.—A large sea-eagle (*Haliastur*), measuring seven feet from wing to wing, and weighing upwards of nine pounds, was shot, a few days since, whilst wending its rapid flight over a wood, in the neighbourhood of High Ham, Somersetshire, by Mr. William Thyer, of that place. The bird has been purchased by Edward Quekett, Esq., of the town, who intends giving it a place in his museum.

MUSIC.

LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.

The announcement of the name of Braham, in the seventh programme, would alone have sufficed to have attracted a large auditory to Exeter Hall; but, in addition to the great tenor—who for more than three-score years has been before the public—Miss Reeves, the tenor of the present epoch, was coupled with his famed predecessor; and thus two of the most distinguished singers this country can boast of—representing the past and the present schools—were heard in one evening. No wonder, then, the hall was filled to an overflow, and that the veteran amateurs of the ballad-stirring days, despite of cold and fog, came from their fireplaces to listen to their pet singer of yore; whilst the modern *dilettanti* were no less anxious to compare their tender tenor with the veteran Braham. When the latter, with firm step and erect form, approached steadily the square piano, on which he accompanied himself in Carter's well-known battle song, "Stand to your guns!" the cheering was deafening for some minutes. It is to the credit of the British public (derisive as the designation has become), that we never forget our old favourites—"Once a King, always a King." Braham soon proved that the fire of his youth was still in his veins; that his intellectual grasp was not in the slightest degree impaired; and that if the physical force of former days had been weakened by the inroads of the fell destroyer Time, the dramatic conception was yet supreme, and the power of exciting the feelings of his auditory was unabated. Encored in the war song, Braham, who had work to do during the night's scheme, which would have taken the fight out of many modern tenors, gave one of his own ballads, with a chasteness of style and sensitiveness of expression which no artist could display more severely than himself, when he was resolved to charm as well as to astonish.

In the second part, Braham and Sims Reeves appeared for their duo, "Gallop on gaily," composed by the former for the opera of "Family Quarrels." The artistic duet was nobly and generously sustained: the best portions of Reeves's chest-notes came out richly and powerfully, whilst the veteran, with the utmost tact, reserving himself for a favourable point, suddenly burst upon the audience with one of those vocal outbreaks peculiarly his own, causing the listeners almost to spring, as it were, from their seats, at mingled admiration and astonishment at such a prodigious feat from a singer of nearly fourscore. Again was the encore overwhelming and irresistible. The crowning effort of Braham was in the "Bay of Biscay;" attended as this was with vocal vicissitudes, the conception and passion of the singer, and the energy of the actor—for Braham always acts this scene of sea-strife with the elements—were such, that, amidst peals of applause, he was compelled to repeat it.

The remainder of the concert, although not, in point of selection, up to the standard we should desire, contained many points of interest. Mr. W. H. Palmer, formerly a pupil of the Royal Academy of Music, played a pianoforte concerto with nice taste and execution; but, as a composition, little can be urged in its favour; and he would have done more wisely to have selected a work of Beethoven or Mendelssohn. Miss Kate Loder—who has earned deserved fame as a classical pianiste—performed, on this occasion, Wallace's "Cracovienne"—a fantasia abounding in the modern digital displays of dexterity, over which Miss Loder proved her thorough mastery; her octave playing is brilliant; and her left hand is remarkably expert and strong. One of the greatest treats of the night was Vivier's delicious warbling of Schubert's serenade on the horn; the tone and sentiment imparted to this dreamy melody by Vivier, were irreproachable for truthfulness and heart-touching in effect.

The songs given by Miss Ransford, Miss Eliza Nelson, and Mrs. A. Newton were encored. A charming duo by Mendelssohn, as charmingly interpreted by the Misses Williams, was also similarly complimented; as also Mr. Reeves in John Barnett's ballad, "Canst thou love?" from the "Mountain Sylph," gleanings from which composed the concert. Mr. Whitworth, Mr. T. Williams, Mr. Leffler and Miss Poole were also included in the programme.

Braham is announced for the last time next Wednesday, at the eighth concert, to sing a new duo, by Lavenue, with Mr. Reeves.

MUSIC AT THE PALACE.—The selections of music performed by the Queen's private band contain many works which are quite unknown to our concert frequenters. Sainton, Day, Hill, and H. Chipp play frequently the finest chamber compositions.

MILDE. LIND.—This charming vocalist sang at Liverpool on the 5th instant, at a concert in aid of one of the hospitals. On the 29th instant, she has consented to sing at Exeter Hall, for the benefit concert of Mr. Balfe; at which Lablache and Thalberg will appear. In the first week in February, Milde Lind will sing gratuitously at a concert, to be given in the College Hall, Worcester, in aid of the Infirmary of that town. Milde Lind offered her services on the occasion, on account of the disappointment experienced at her not being able to sing at the festival last September, to the funds of which she sent £50. It is expected that Milde Lind will begin this season at Her Majesty's Theatre at an earlier period than last year. Mr. Lumley has been to Manchester, where Milde Lind is on a visit, to make arrangements for that purpose.

MUSICAL EVENTS.—On Monday next, Handel's "Judas Maccabæus" will be performed at Exeter Hall, by the Sacred Harmonic Society, conducted by Costa: the vocalists will be Miss Birch, the Misses Williams, Messrs. Reeves, Williams, and Phillips.—M. Julien's band, with Milde Nissen as vocalist, is now in Dublin.—The French Opera at the St. James's Theatre is to commence on Monday week.—Mr. Macfarren, the composer, has returned to London from the United States.—Mr. Willy and Mr. Biagrove have been placed on the court of assistants of the Royal Society of Musicians; Mr. Rovedino on the concert committee, in place of François Cramer, deceased; and Messrs. Goss, Cubitt, and Jarrett, on the committee of accounts; Mr. Parry is hon. treasurer. On the books there are now 35 widows, 15 children, and nine aged members. £24547s. 8d. were appropriated this year out of the funds.—Miss Anne Romer, cousin of the Miss Romer, and brother of Mr. Travers, commenced on Thursday evening a series of six *sotées musicales* at her residence, 19, Newman-street. Miss Anne Romer has a very beautiful voice, which only requires good opportunities to be heard: she was prematurely brought out at the Princess' Theatre; but, as a concert singer, she will take a good position.—A series of concerts will be commenced on Monday next at the Whittington Club, at which our best native singers will be heard.

FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.—Nothing has been definitively arranged as to the leasehold of the Italian Opera in Paris. Just as M. de Malleville and the Commission of the Theatres were disposed to accept Ronconi's propositions, the former resigned, and M. Léon Faucher, who is more of a political economist than a musical amateur, has been nominated Minister of Interior in M. de Malleville's place.—A tenor having been found for the Théâtre de la Nation, in a M. Espinasse, Meyerbeer's "Huguenots" will be performed, in a few days, for his debut as *Raoul*; but more particularly for the last appearance of Madame Viardot at the French Grand Opera, as *Valentine*, a part which she has sung in German at Berlin, and in Italian at the Royal Italian Opera, London. The rehearsals for the "Prophète" were continued by Meyerbeer with the greatest zeal and activity; and it was expected to be ready at the end of March.—Mlle. Neodot, who made her debut at Covent-Garden Theatre in 1847, is now dancing at the National Opera at Paris with success.—Prince Louis Napoleon has taken boxes at the Grand Opera (Théâtre de la Nation), at the Opéra Comique, and at the Français.—Bordas, the tenor, late of the Paris Italian Opera, has been engaged for Her Majesty's Theatre for this season.—Two new operas have been produced in Berlin—on in German, called "The Red Mantle," by Henr Wurst, at the Royal Theatre; and the other in Italian, at the Königstadt, entitled "Colombo," by Signor Barbieri. The former was a failure; the latter moderately successful, thanks to the singing of Signora Fodor.—Spohr, according to the accounts from Leipzig, has not been successful in his oratorio of "The Last Judgment," and in a new symphony. The former work, which has met with decided success in England, was executed on the 12th ult., and the symphony at the tenth subscription concert.—Schiller's poem, "The Artists," had been set to music by Bartholdy.

CURIOUS ANCIENT COIN.—Among the many objects of interest and antiquity in the possession of M. Frost, Esq., Baslow, are four pieces of ancient coin, consisting of a one shilling piece, two sixpenny, and one threepenny piece, all of silver, dated 1573, and bearing an impression of Queen Elizabeth. The whole of the above was found in Baslow churchyard, by Mr. W. Marples, sexton, in digging a grave, five feet below the surface. Whether it had been buried according to the ancient custom as "Peter's pence," or by what means it came there is, of course, a matter of conjecture.—*Sheffield Times*.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARIS AND LONDON.—The *National* this week published an article on the postal arrangement between London and Paris, in which it complains that the object of the recent visit of the Marquis of Clanricarde to Paris has been misrepresented in the English journals. The following is the statement given by that journal:—"The Amiens and Boulogne Railway being opened, was a shorter mode of communication than that by Calais. Taking advantage of this new facility, it was agreed between the two Governments:—1. That the post should leave twice a day, on the French side alternately from Boulogne and Calais, and on the English side from Dover. 2. That the transport should be effected as follows:—That from Calais to Dover going and returning by the French boats; that of Boulogne and Dover to and fro by the English boats. This arrangement was to be in force for one year; and at the expiration of that time might be continued or modified for another year. Unfortunately, no mention was made of the time at which notice of the discontinuance of the arrangement was to be given on either side. A few days before the expiration of the year, the English Government gave notice that from the 1st of January, or, at latest, the 15th, the Boulogne line of boats would be discontinued, so that we could make no arrangements, for want of timely notice, and henceforward it will be impossible to continue the correspondence by way of Boulogne. Let it not be supposed that we defend this line; we know very well that it is 104 kilometres shorter than that of Calais, the sea passage is longer. We are not unaware that the port of Boulogne has less secure shelter and a less easy entrance than that of Calais. But we could have wished that a clause had been inserted requiring a greater length of notice; we could then have weighed the advantages and disadvantages of a line which will now doubtless be abandoned. To resume. The Marquis of Clanricarde did not come to France to demand the revision of the treaty of 1843. He came to confer on the immediate cessation of the Boulogne boats. In this the English Government is justified, it is true; but it should not have had this right if the abuse of it could have been foreseen."

The scarcity of berries on the holly this season has caused some of the vendors at Bath to make a novel substitution of some other green berries, about the same size, which are immersed in red paint, and afterwards tied round the stem of the holly.

THE THEATRES.

The Christmas pieces are all now in full play; the houses are nightly crowded; and the bills remain as when we last wrote. The tricks have got into good working order, and change when wanted into what is intended. The fairies no longer inhabit regions of rebellious clouds, which will not open and allow them to influence mortal fortunes. And the knocks and bumps, shocks and thumps—in the giving and receiving of which the *Clown* and *Pantaloon* pass their lives—are exchanged with desperate rapidity.

Taken altogether, the Christmas pieces are pronounced to be very good—the Pantomimes above the usual average, possibly from the reason that the events of the past exciting year have furnished abundance of subject-matter for the jokes and practical allusions.

We last week omitted to mention the harlequinade at the QUEEN'S Theatre, which is founded on the old story of "The Maid and the Magpie." We do so now, principally to speak of Mr. Lynch as a *Pantaloon* of the good old school. We have seen nobody like him in depicting feeble mischief and senility. Mr. Harrison is an active *Clown*, and makes plenty of fun. An excellent arrangement in the management of this theatre, which might be copied with good effect, is the establishment of a species of beadle, who pervades the house generally with a cane, which he raps against the panels of the boxes when the boys in the gallery are too noisy; and at times he does not hesitate to ascend to the regions of the gods, and deal sundry whacks upon the shoulders of the most turbulent. We suppose he is the only living instance of a single individual stopping an encore of "Hot Codlins" on a Boxing Night, because it was too late. But this feat he accomplished.

OLYMPIC.

A novelty, in the shape of a one-act serious drama, written by Mr. Albert Smith, was produced at this theatre on Thursday evening, and with perfect success. It is founded on a tale called "A Legend of Antwerp" which appeared a few months back in *Blackwood's Magazine*. Considerable liberties have, however, been taken with the *dénouement*, to get it into a dramatic form; and the alterations, which are confined to the last scene—that of the execution on the Place—are so made as to bring the interest up to a startling point immediately before the fall of the curtain. Mr. Leigh Murray, as the hereditary son of the headsman, upon whom the odious office descends by birth, played with more than his usual force and impressing truthfulness. His agony at the thought of his loathsome office, coupled with his love for his young townsman, was admirably portrayed.

The heroine, *Bertha*, was performed by a *debutante*, a Miss de Burgh, under which name, we believe, the daughter of a gentleman of eminence in the literary medical world, now deceased, has made her first appearance. The young lady achieved a perfect success. To considerable personal attractions she adds great intelligence, and a very touching and gentle voice; altogether, with very little study, she has a bright prospect in the serious melodramatic line, before her.

Mr. Sterling made a great effect as the old headsman. His "make up" was excellent, and his scene with his despairing son finely played. Mr. Compton executed a small part of a painter of church images with great humour, and was a signal for laughter whenever he appeared. The applause at the end was loud and general; the principal performers were called for, and the success of the drama entirely established. The last scene, by Mr. Roberts, was exceedingly effective.

IRELAND.

MR. DUFFY'S TRIAL.

On Friday (se'nnight) the arguments on the demurrer were brought to a close, by the reply of the Attorney-General, who contended that the facts charged having been admitted by the demurrer, the judgment of the court should be final, without the intervention of a jury, as in a civil case or a charge of misdemeanor. The learned gentleman, however, threw out a suggestion that the court might permit the withdrawal of the demurrer before judgment, if the prisoner was desirous of pleading. Judgment was postponed until the following Tuesday. On that day, however, at the sitting of the Court, Mr. Justice Perrin announced that they were not then prepared to give judgment. The case was an important one, the authorities numerous, and though they had considered many of them, there were others they had not an opportunity of considering.

Mr. Baron Richards.—We have considered this case a great deal, and we find we could not satisfactorily arrive at our decision to-day.

After some conversation with the officers of the court, their Lordships directed a further adjournment until one o'clock on Friday (yesterday). In all likelihood, therefore, there will be no trial in this case at this commission.

LORD ROSSE'S MONSTER TELESCOPE.—At a meeting of the Royal Irish Academy, on the 30th ult., the Rev. Dr. Robinson noticed a fact of some interest, which he lately observed with the Rosse telescope—it related to a remarkable planetary nebula, Herschel's figure 45. This looks like an oval disc, reminding one of the planet Jupiter; but it appeared to be a combination of the two asters which he had formerly described. In both these the centre consists of a cluster of tolerably large stars; in the first, surrounded by a vast globe of much smaller ones—in the other, by a flat disc of small stars, which, when seen edgewise, has the appearance of a ray. Now, this nebula, which he had recently observed through Lord Rosse's telescope, has the central cluster, the narrow ray, and the surrounding globe. He would also add, as a remarkable proof of the defining power of this vast instrument, that he saw with it the companion of the well-known Gamma Andromeda, or two blue stars, which he had never before seen. It was discovered by the celebrated Struve, with the Pulkova Reflector, and is a very severe test. He further wished to mention that, as La Place had anticipated, the ring of Saturn, which was quite visible, showed irregularities, which are most probably mountains on its eastern side.

THE "GODLESS COLLEGES."—The building of the new colleges in Cork, Galway, Belfast, and Maynooth is proceeding towards completion. The architects of the new buildings are, respectively, Sir Thomas Deane, Mr. Deane, Mr. Lanyon, and Mr. Pugin. That at Belfast is the most forward, and will probably be completed in the beginning of next year. The sites selected are about ten acres each, and the style of architecture adopted in each case is the Gothic. The Cork College occupies three sides of a quadrangle. The extent of the north or entrance front is 290 feet 9 inches; of the east front, 282 feet; and of the west front, 191 feet. The library, to the right of the examination hall, is 56 feet by 28 feet. The main quadrangle is 215 feet 9 inches by 161 feet.

CORK GARRISON AMATEUR THEATRICALS.—On Friday evening, the 29th ult., the officers of this garrison performed, at the Royal Victoria Theatre, before a crowded and brilliant audience, for the benefit of the Cork Fever Hospital. The evening's entertainments were "Time Tries All," the farce of "Chaos is come again," and "The Dead Shot." An admirable orchestra, composed of the best performers from the bands of the 12th Lancers, 70th Regiment, and Cameronians, conducted by Mr. Jones (12th Lancers), played a choice selection of music during the evening.

DISTURBED DISTRICTS PROCLAIMED.—Some baronies in the counties of Down and Antrim, which have lately been the scenes of acts of incendiarism, are, it is understood, about to be proclaimed under the provisions of the Peace Preservation Act, and an extra police force stationed in the localities at the expense of the inhabitants. A reward of £100 is also offered for the discovery of the incendiaries.

INGENIOUS ROBBERY BY A PRETENDED CLERGYMAN.—At the close of last week the police got notice of the following facts:—On the previous Wednesday evening between five and six o'clock, a person, having all the appearance of a clergyman, entered the shop of Messrs. Lambert and Rawlings, jewellers, in Coventry-street, and stated that he wished to make some wedding presents at the Bishop of Winchester's, 19, St. James's-square. He required some ladies' watches, chains, and bracelets. Articles of this kind were shown him, and he selected several of considerable value. He also gave an order for a dinner service of plate, and said he should call on Monday and pay for it by cheque. He said his name was the Rev. John Coulson. Having made all his selections, and desired the dinner service to be laid by for him, he said, "Will you have the kindness to send a shopman with me to the Bishop of Winchester's with the ornaments for the ladies?" His request was acceded to, and a shopman, putting the articles into a bag, accompanied him in a cab to No. 19, St. James's-square. He got out, and knocked at the door with easy assurance; and when it was opened he asked the servant "Has the Rev. Mr. Flint arrived?" [A clergyman of that name, residing at Morden, Surrey, is in the habit of visiting the Bishop of Winchester at his mansion, St. James's-square.] The servant said he had not. "Oh, don't mind," said the false clergyman; "is Mr. Sumner (the Bishop's son) in?" The servant answered in the affirmative, but added that Mr. Sumner was at dinner. "Never mind, do not disturb him. I will take wine with him by and by. I want, in the meantime, to write a note to him." He was then shown into the waiting-room, the shopman entering with him. He immediately commenced writing a note, but suddenly stopping, and addressing the shopman, he said, "By the by, I want some signet rings; I forgot to order them. Go back and bring me some rings of that sort." The shopman, completely off his guard, went, leaving the bag and its costly contents. The other finished the note to Mr. Sumner, which he left with directions to the servant to deliver it, and then quietly walked away. He did not take the bag, but abstracted its contents. In the meantime the shopman came back, saying to the servant, "I have brought these rings for the gentleman." "Why, the gentleman is gone," said the servant. "Where is my bag?" exclaimed the shopman. "Here it is," said the servant, bringing it to him. It was empty! The police ascertained that on the same evening the sharper pawned the three bracelets and three of the watchguards for £70, at the shop of Mr. Vaughan, pawnbroker, 39, Strand. The seven watches he did not pawn. On Friday morning the Messrs. Lambert and Rawlings received a letter from him, dated Bath, and bearing the post-mark of that city. In it he expressed his deep contrition for what he had done—declared that he was the unfortunate dupe of more designing parties than himself—entreated the Messrs. Lambert and Rawlings to preserve the greatest secrecy, asseverating that, if they did, they should be paid in full when the writer came back to England. He wrote, that of his own knowledge he knew nothing of any of the persons in St. James's-square, but that he had derived information respecting them from certain parties living in the parishes of St. Luke and St. George's-in-the-East. Mr. Lambert, though convinced the letter was a ruse, proceeded to Bath, but of course without hitting on any traces of the *chevalier d'industrie*. As yet he is lying in some undiscovered locality—very likely in the heart of London. A reward of £50 is offered for his apprehension.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Consolidated Board of Excise, Stamps, and Taxes, is to consist of the following:—Chairman, John Wood, Esq.; Deputy-Chairman, John Thornton, Esq.; Commissioners: Hart Davis, Esq.; Thomas Harrison, Esq.; Henry T. Stephenson, Esq.; Charles John Herries, Esq.; Charles P. Rushworth, Esq.; Charles Pressly, Esq.; Alfred Montgomery, Esq.

The Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company have recently negotiated a loan of £45,000 for the accomplishment of their useful undertaking, the Newport and Pontypool Railway; and the operations upon the line will be vigorously resumed in a short time.

Llandillo Bridge, Carmarthenshire, a noble structure, is completed. The bridge, which is the third largest in the kingdom, being nearly 150 feet span, is built principally of black marble, at an expense of about £18,000. Gloucester Bridge cost £60,000 and Chester £40,000.

Some time since, a person at Chelmsford, more ingenious than scrupulous, paid a tradesman for some goods by a bill at two months; but on presenting it at the expiration of that period, the owner found it was payable two months after death instead of after date.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Amedroz, the venerable Chief Clerk at the Admiralty, having completed half a century's service, is about to retire from his arduous and responsible office.

Mr. Crowder, it would appear, is not to be allowed to walk over the course at the Liskeard Election. Lord John Manners, it is said, is to be nominated, and intends to contest the election. The writ has been issued, and the election will take place on Monday next.

The office of Clerk of the Peace for the City of Dublin has been conferred upon Robert Dickinson, solicitor, who held the office for some years jointly with the late Mr. George Archer.

Count Areze, Envoy of the King of Sardinia, has arrived at Paris to congratulate Prince Louis Bonaparte on his nomination to the Presidency. The King Charles Albert has appointed Count Uring as his representative at the Congress of Brussels on the Italian question.

The presents offered to their Majesties of Prussia, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their wedding-day, were exhibited to the public at Potsdam for some days preceding Christmas. They occupied a long gallery of the palace, and consisted of every variety of article, from the highest works of art to the offering of the humble workman. The exhibition was a striking proof of the respect and affection which the Prussian people feel for the august couple.

Lola Montes, who some time since caused so great a sensation in Bavaria—consequent on her elevation to the rank of Countess by the ex-King, arrived in London on Friday (last week).

On Saturday week, a male wild cat, measuring four feet from tail to snout, and weighing 9 lb., was taken in a vermin trap by the gamekeeper to Joseph Bushell, Esq., of Bulk, on that gentleman's estate in Lancashire.

As one of the superintendents at the general terminus of Perth was recently crossing the Scottish Midland line, an engine at great speed came up and struck him down. Strange to say, he was laid so flat between the rails, that the engine passed over him, without any of the wheels or underworks of the locomotive touching him. With the exception of his being severely cut in the face, and rendered for some time insensible from the shock, he sustained no other injury, and was able to go about his occupation the next day.

The President of the National Assembly of France has given orders for the execution of a portrait of the President of the Republic, which is to be placed in the Conference Chamber of the Palace of the Legislature.

A Paris caricaturist, just published, represents Louis Philippe receiving a kick from Lamartine, who is receiving one from Cavaignac, who is in turn kicked by Louis Napoleon; then comes a scroll—"To be continued."

It is understood that a new commission is contemplated to inquire into the state of the law respecting the letting and management of ecclesiastical property, with a view to legislation on this important subject. The matters to be investigated are of themselves of a sufficiently extensive and complicated nature to require the deepest attention; and the persons selected for the task will not at all interfere with the duties or the construction of the Ecclesiastical Commission, but will be employed upon a field of labour and inquiry entirely distinct.

The treasurer of the county of Middlesex shows in his accounts the sums repaid by him to the churchwardens of the various parishes in the county of Middlesex, for expenses incurred by them in providing staves and other necessary articles for the use of the special constables, appointed under the 1st and 2nd William IV., in the month of April, 1848, when the peace of the metropolis was threatened to be disturbed by Chartist meetings held at Kennington-common and other places. The total of these sums is £1043 14s. 8d.

At a quarterly general court of the governors and subscribers of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, held on Monday night at Bloomsbury-place, Thomas Waring, Esq., in the chair, 12 boys were elected to fill the existing vacancies in the Institution, making up the full number of 70 who receive the benefit of the charity.

An Anti-oath Association has been formed at Edinburgh for the purpose of aiding with advice or otherwise any who may be imprisoned for conscientiously refusing to swear, and especially for using all constitutional means to effect such a change in the law as will assimilate it to that of the United States of America, by which an oath or affirmation is equally admissible—falsehood under either form being liable to the penalties of perjury.

We regret to learn that Viscount Melbourne has been again attacked by severe indigestion; his Lordship continues in a very unsettled state of health. Drs. Ferguson and Holland are in attendance on the noble Viscount.

On Monday, at a large meeting of gentlemen connected with various public offices in the City, held at the Pine-Apple Tavern, Hungerford-market, it was agreed to commence a subscription, for the purpose of presenting a substantial testimonial to Mr. Joseph Crawford, who was the originator of the cheap omnibus fares from Paddington to Hungerford-market.

An extraordinary case of self-destruction has just occurred at Berlin. The dead body of a man was found at daylight, by the constabulary, in a sitting position, on one of the benches in the Thier-Garten. From an examination of it, it appeared that the man must have placed a small packet of gunpowder in his mouth, ignited it, and thus blown his head to pieces.

There were four King's Scholarships established at the Royal Academy of Music in 1834 (two males and two females), two of whom go out by rotation at the end of two years, unless they be re-elected, as was the case lately.

"The Battle of Hexham," a song made in the time of Edward the Fourth, and lately discovered among some ancient documents at Hexham, has just been reprinted in the old English style, with illuminated initials, at New-castle. The quaint spelling of the period is preserved throughout, but, where necessary, an explanation is given in the margin.

The Piedmontese Envoys to the Brussels Congress on the affairs of Italy have arrived in Paris during the week.

In the year 1848, 11,073 emigrants only have left Antwerp for Transatlantic countries, whereas in 1847 the number was 16,750. This falling off is naturally attributed to the influence of recent political events.

Fourteen appointments to departmental Prefectures, in which are many well-known members of the Orleans party who had been displaced by the revolution of February, have been made by the New French Ministry.

The King of Belgium has conferred the Order of Leopold upon Capt. Jessen, who commanded the Belgian corvette *La Meuse* on the Portuguese coast, when the English vessel, the *Lady Kennaway*, was wrecked, on the 1st of November, 1847, and the passengers and crew (numbering twenty-six persons), who were on the point of perishing, were saved by Captain Jessen, at the peril of his own life.

The Government of France has a number of agents in this country purchasing horses suitable for troopers. One agent has bought several in the neighbourhood of Ipswich, and forwarded them for inspection with all possible despatch.

The Archbishop of Paris has issued a circular to his clergy, directing a collection to be made at the churches for the Pope.

M. Marrast has announced his determination not to present himself again as a candidate for the Presidency of the National Assembly of France.

Large importations of poultry are taking place from the Continent. The quality of the turkeys imported from France is reported to be excellent, although, generally speaking, not so large and fine as those produced in England.

The public are cautioned not to take £5 and £10 notes of the Bank of England without a previous careful inspection, as there are many forgeries in circulation. At Gravesend, no less than three £10 notes were detected last week as spurious, and have since been branded as forgeries by the Bank of England.

A burglary was committed on Sunday morning at the house of Mr. Josephs, a jeweller and watchmaker, near Zion Chapel, Waterloo-road. The family were aroused by some neighbours, who saw the shop-door open, and it was found that the whole of the stock had been stolen.

The Attorney-General has directed the proceedings against all the parties charged with offences in the New Forest to be abandoned. Mr. Bowles, the keeper, and other parties, who have been so long harassed by these proceedings, have been reinstated.

Twenty pounds were received as a donation to the poor-box fund of the Greenwich Police Court this week, from the Goldsmiths' Company, with a request that the same be acknowledged through the medium of the daily papers.

On Monday, a testimonial of respect was presented to Lieut. Gretton, R.N., superintendent of the passenger department of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, by the officers and servants of that department. The present consisted of a handsome silver tea and coffee service.

A recent ordinance of the Neapolitan Government prescribes a quarantine of twenty-one days for persons and merchandise from London, Hull, Edinburgh, and Leith, and fourteen days from any other port in England.

The casualties of a bombardment are often strange enough. An English family, on returning to their house lately, at Messina, in Sicily, found the upper part ruined, and forty-one bombs and shells awaiting them. On lighting a fire in one of the rooms the smoke would not ascend, and on having the chimney examined, a shell was found in it which had not exploded.

There are one or two facts of which it may be proper to remind our readers at this season—namely, that the January dividends at the Bank are payable on the 8th; and that before the 8th fire insurance policies due at Christmas must be paid.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Alpha," "Azedres"—The contest between Captain Kennedy and Mr. Love has terminated, to the astonishment of everybody acquainted with the comparative strength of the competitors, and to none more than the winner, in the Captain's disfavour, the score at the end being:—Love, 7; Kennedy, 6; Drawn, 1. This unlooked-for result in no respect invalidates the gallant Captain's claim to be the better player (as, indeed, his opponent admits), since it still leaves him the conqueror in three matches out of four with the same party. We are not aware that any definitive arrangements have been made to bring about the "Chess Tournament" which "Alpha" mentions.

"G. S." Douglas.—It is curious, and pretty, too.

"W. G. W."—Your solution in three moves is true enough. The Bishop, perhaps, should stand at Rook's 5th instead of Rook's 3d.

"M. U." must be good enough to send a solution, before we can look at his Problem.

"Argentine."—The publication of "Le Palamède" was stopped by the French Revolution. We are happy to learn, however, that it is about to re-appear, under the able management and editorship of Mr. Kieseritzky, assisted by many of the first players in France and Germany.

"C. W. R."—The solution of Enigma No. 402 is effected thus:—1. Kt checks. 2. Kt to Q 5th. 3. Kt to Q 4th. 4. Kt or B mates, according to Black's last move. "J. R. S."—We must trouble you to write out the position, not having the opportunity of always referring to back numbers.

"S. A. G." Birmingham, is referred to the next number, or the next but one, of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, to that in which the diagram appeared, for the solution or correction of the Problem mentioned.

"Phil-Chess."—The very beautiful Engravings which we mentioned last week, from Frank Stone's pictures, "The Impending Mate" and "Mated," are procurable, we are told, at the office of the Chess-Player's Chronicle, King William-street, Charing-cross, as well as of the publishers.

"T. C."—We know nothing of the "double game of Chess."

"T. W." Alphonso.—You are certainly mistaken in supposing No. 257 can be solved in three moves.

"G. S. S." Liverpool.—Received, with many thanks.

"J. H." Isle of Wight.—They are much too easy, even for beginners.

"Mirza."—1. Both as regards the quantity and quality of his productions, Mr. Kling stands facile princeps among the constructors of ingenious Chess Problems. 2. Alexandre's stupendous work, called "The Beauties of Chess," may be got through any foreign bookseller.

"W. R. T."—1. The solution of Problem No. 257 is given in the present Number. 2. With respect to No. 258 you are quite right.

Solutions by "S. A. G.," "C. P.," "Woodstockensis," "Peto," "E. P.," "S. U.," "T. D. B. S.," "F. G. R.," "Derevon," "Discipulus," "A. T.," "Volligeur," "Geso," "A. V. X.," "H. V.," "J. H. J.," "B. V.," "Jordan P.," "R. R.," "S. H. P.," "G. G. G.," "An Old Subscriber," "E. H.," "Otho," "A. L. M.," "P. W.," "Bothyene," "C. H. Z.," "R. H. S.," "Maza," "Etoniensis," "M. E. R.," "F. S.," "Wigtoniensis," "E. B. R.," "W. L.," "Latrunculi," "Gilbertson," "T. W.," "F. C.," "J. G.," "Automaton," are correct. Those by "W. H.," "T. M.," "Argus," are wrong.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 257.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. B to Q 8th (ch)	K to B 4th	3. R to R 3d	Kt moves
2. B to Kt 6th (ch)	K to Kt 5th, or (a)	4. Kt mates at Q 5th	

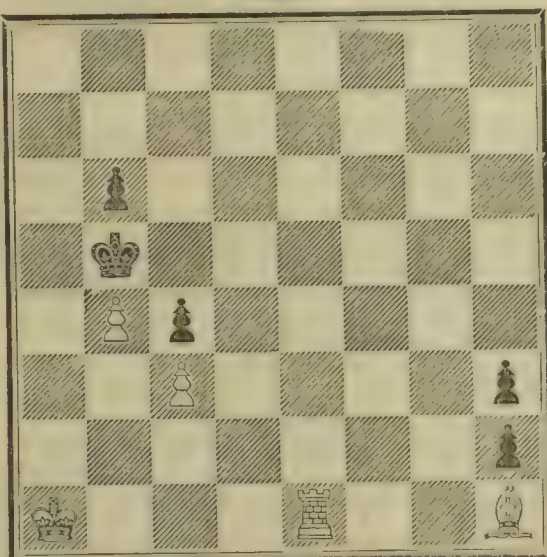
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 258.

In three moves.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. R to Q 5th	K to Q 3d	3. B to Q 7th—Mate	
2. K to Q 8th	P to Q 3d		

PROBLEM NO. 259.—By Mr. H. J. C. ANDREWS.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White, playing first, to mate in six moves.

MATCH BY CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE CHESS CLUBS OF LONDON AND AMSTERDAM.

WHITE (Amsterdam). BLACK (London).

23. B to Q 2d London to play.

GAME IN THE LATE MATCH BETWEEN CAPTAIN KENNEDY AND MR. LOWE.

BLACK (Mr. L.)	WHITE (Capt. K.)	BLACK (Mr. L.)	WHITE (Capt. K.)
1. P to K 4th	P to K 3d	22. K to B 4th	Q takes P at Q 3d
2. P to Q 4th	P to Q 4th	23. Kt takes Kt	P takes Kt
3. P to K 3d	K to B 3d	24. K to Kt sq	B to Q 3d
4. K to B 3d	K to Kt 3d	25. K to Q 2d	K R to K B 3d
5. Q to Kt 3d	P to K B 4th	26. R to K B sq	Q to Q 5th (ch)
6. N to Q 3d	K to B 2d	27. R to K B 2d	P to K R 4th
7. Castles	Castles	28. K to R 2d	Q R to K sq
8. Q to K 2d	P to Q 3d	29. Q to K 3d	Q takes Q
9. P to Q Kt 3d	K to B 3d	30. P takes Q	P to K 4th
10. Q to Q Kt 2d (a)	Q to Kt 5th	31. P to K 5th	P to K 5th
11. Kt takes Kt	K B takes Kt (ch)	32. P to K R 4th	K R to K B 2d
12. K to R sq	Kt to Kt 5th	33. P to K 6th	P takes P
13. Kt to Q sq	Kt takes K R P (b)	34. P to K 5th	Q R to K 4th
14. Q takes B	Kt takes R	35. R takes K B P	R takes R
15. B to K B 2d (c)	Q to K B 3d (d)	36. Q takes R	R to K B 4th
16. P to K 5th	Q to K R 3d (ch)	37. Q to K R 4th	R to K B 8th
17. K to Kt sq	Kt to K R 7th	38. P to Kt 4th	P takes P
18. Q to K Kt 3d	Q to K Kt 5th	39. Q to K 7th	P to Q R 4th
19. K P takes P	K to B 3d	40. K to Kt 3d	R to Q B 8th
20. R to Q Kt sq	Q to Q 5th (ch)	41. K to Q Kt 3d	P to Q K 5th
21. Kt to K 3d	B to Q 2d	42. Q takes Q Kt P	P takes K B

And White wins.

(a) Black would have played very ill to advance his K P at this point, because of the adversary's threatened check with his Queen at her 5th after the exchange of Pawns.

(b) This is extremely well played, since it is not at all easy to see how White can possibly avoid the loss of his two minor pieces for the Knight.

(c) Closing up, apparently, the only outlet for White's Kt.

(d) It was this move of escape White foresaw when he took the K R Pawn, and which enables him to come off the winner of the "exchange" and a clear Pawn, to say nothing of the advantage gained in position.

BETWEEN THE SAME PLAYERS.

WHITE (Capt. K.)	BLACK (Mr. L.)	WHITE (Capt. K.)	BLACK (Mr. L.)
1. P to Q 4th (a)	P to Q 3d	9. B takes Kt	P takes B
2. P to Q B 4th	P to K B 4th	10. Kt takes K P	Kt takes Kt
3. P to K 4th (b)	P takes P	11. P takes Kt	Q to K R 5th (ch)
4. Q to B 3d (c)	B to K B 4th	12. K to Q 2d (d)	Q to K B 5th (ch)
5. Q to B 2d (e)	K to B 3d	13. K to R 3d	B takes K P
6. B to K 3d	K to B 3d	14. B to Q 3d (f)	Q to K 6th (ch)
7. P to K B 3d	P to K 4th	15. Q to R 2d	B takes B
8. P to Q 5th	Q to Q 5th	16. Q takes Q (ch)	P takes Q

And Black wins.

(a) This was the deciding game of the contest, and is unquestionably the most played part of the whole. No one, indeed, acquainted with the last play of Captain Kennedy, could believe it possible that the tactics, purposes, and combinations in this game were so simple, and, too, in the terminating struggle of a match!

(b) An excellent move when the adverse Q P is not moved, but a very unsafe one in the present state of things.

(c) Even here the P was recoverable by 3. P to Kt 4th; and then, 6. K to B Kt 2d.

(d) Worse and worse. From this point, of course, the White game is lost beyond redemption.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

THE NEW GREAT COAT, &c.—We are informed that the projected improvement of the great coat, &c., which will reduce the weight upon the wearer by 5 lb., is the invention of Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, G.C.H., the Major-General commanding the south-west district. This coat will, in addition to its other advantages, form a part of a tent, which a few will complete in all its outward necessities.

THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.—According to the last official returns, the army is composed of 7093 regimental officers on full pay, viz. 66 colonels, 266 lieutenant-colonels, 260 majors, 1827 captains, 2553 lieutenants, 1227 second lieutenants, ensigns, and cornets, 490 regimental staff officers, 185 surgeons, 249 assistant-surgeons, and 30 veterinary surgeons, and 162,148 non-commissioned officers and rank and file. This number includes 12,553 cavalry, 5042 guards, 19,867 artillery and sappers and miners, 105,033 infantry of the line, 11,621 royal marines and marine artillery, and 8582 to be the strength of the colonial regiments, with the exception of the Cape Mounted Rifles, which is included in the cavalry return.

The first ship commissioned this year was the *Centaur* steam-frigate (on the 1st instant), at Portsmouth, to carry the broad pendant of Commodore Arthur Fanshawe, C.B., to command in chief on the west coast of Africa, vice Sir Charles Hotham, coming home. The *Centaur* will have a poop, and a complement of 240 total. Captain Buckle will command her.

LOSS OF HER MAJESTY'S SHIP "MUTINE."—Official reports have reached the Admiralty of the wreck of the *Mutine*, 12, on the 21st ult., at Palmaria, about ten miles from Venice. The Commander had gone ashore with despatches, when a terrific gale came on. The Lieutenant in charge, Mr. A. J. Curtis, tried every means to recover the ship at her anchors, by cutting away the masts; but, having parted with both chain-cable and hawser, a gun having been bent on to the latter, to save his ship's company, he preferred to run the vessel on shore, when all the crew were saved, with the exception of four officers and one marine, who have been lost; viz. Edward Whiting (acting mate), drowned in a most gallant attempt to get on shore in the dingy with a line; H. E. Charlton (acting mate), dead from exhaustion and intense cold; James Burke (assistant-surgeon), whose death was caused in a similar manner; James Dowse (carpenter), who fell out of the bowline-knot, as they were hauling him on shore, and was drowned; and Edward James (private, Royal Marines), found frozen to death under the forecabin. Nothing could exceed, it is said, the intrepid ability of Lieutenant Curtis during the whole affair. The *Arden*, steam-vessel, Lieutenant-Commander Newell, has taken to Naples the officers and crew, who were to be tried by court-martial as soon as the vessel was relieved from quarantine, after which they were to be sent home. The *Mutine* is the second of the five experimental brigs that have been wrecked; for the *Osprey*, it will be remembered, was lost at New Zealand.

ONE of the projects lately presented to the French National Assembly, and intended as a substitute for the Excise and Customs, is as follows:—1. All persons who shall use a dress coat (*habit*) shall pay a tax of 100 francs, to be collected within the first fortnight of January. 2. All persons who shall wear a hat shall pay twenty francs, payable in the same manner. 3. All persons who shall wear a frock coat (*redingote*) shall pay a tax of five francs, to be collected in the same manner. 4. The wearers of uniforms, civil or military, the blouse, the jacket, and the cap, shall be exempt from taxes. This project has been referred to the Committee of Finance.

LOSS OF THREE PILOTS.—On Friday (last week) a Cowes pilot boat was seen standing off Freshwater Bay. It afterwards appeared that she had on board four men, one of whom, a Deal pilot, named Johnson, had been received into the Cowes boat from one of the Channel vessels, which he had piloted. Johnson wished to land in Freshwater Bay, and the small boat, with two sailors and himself, left the pilot boat for the purpose of coming ashore; but a powerful ground swell running into the bay, the boat was unhappily capsized, and the unfortunate mariners were drowned. Two of the bodies were picked up in the course of the evening, and the other next morning. The Cowes pilot, who witnessed the unfortunate accident, contrived to work his vessel alone through the Needles, where he was met by another boat from Yarmouth, which he reached without further accident. The two Cowes sailors have left families, one of seven, and the other of eight children.

EMIGRATION.—PLYMOUTH, JAN. 2.—The *Spartan*, Captain Pain, from London, with about 120 passengers, left the Sound on Thursday last, for Adelaide and Port Phillip. The *Jutland*, Captain Burn, from London, having on board 84 free emigrants, sailed for Sidney the same day. The *Lady Amherst*, Captain Myhill, is now in the Sound, taking on board her passengers; she will take in 180 adults, and sail in a day or two for Sidney. The *David Malcolm*, of London, Captain Smith, is daily expected, 164 free emigrants are waiting here at the *dépôt*, and when these are put on board she will sail direct for South Australia. The *John Mitchell*, a private passenger-ship, from London, is now in the Sound, and will sail for Adelaide to-morrow, should the weather prove favourable. The *Sir George Seymour*, Capt. Millman, is hourly expected from London, and the emigrants, who are nearly all free, are ready to be put on board. The *Pemberton*, from London, is expected on Monday next; she will take 346 unmarried females from Ireland to Sidney. The *Inconstant*, a fine vessel, now classing in this port, will take another batch of unmarried women to Adelaide early in February.

THE "MEANEE" LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIP.

A BOMBAY Correspondent has favoured us with the following account of the launch of this magnificent vessel:

In March, 1840, Sir James Graham, the First Lord of the Admiralty, in giving an account of the strength of the Royal Navy, mentioned that there were two line-of-battle ships then building in India, but which had not at that time been named, leading to the inference that those were on the point of coming on the strength of the navy. The *Meanee* was not laid down till two years afterwards. The other line-of-battle ship is not commenced; and notification has now been given that no more vessels will for the present be built in India for her Majesty's service. In 1841 and 1842 three sets of slips were built, for the reception of line-of-battle ships. Enormous quantities of teak had for some time been collecting for the use of the dockyard; the war-steamer *Semiramis* (1100 tons, and 350-horse-power) and the *Ferooz* (1500 tons, and 500-horse-power) being in process of construction, along with the liner already named, and the brigs *Junna* and *Nerbudda*.

The keel of the *Meanee*, or, as she was originally intended to be called, the *Madras*, having been laid down just after the rains in 1842, the native ceremony of driving the silver nail into the keel was performed in November, in presence of the Governor, Sir George Arthur, and his Lady; the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Thomas McMahon, and his family; the Superintendent of the Indian Navy, Sir R. Oliver; the Judges of the Supreme Court, and other distinguished persons in the Presidency. The ceremony consists in driving a silver nail, with a silver hammer, into the stern of the ship, with sundry invocations in the native language, calling for the blessings of the Almighty on the future ship. The head builder immediately afterwards covers the head of the nail with a wooden plug. The ceremony concludes by the Governor conferring a present of shawls on the master-builder and his two chief assistants, with betel nut and leaves ornamented, and rose-water sprinkled over these present, to whom bouquets of flowers are also presented by the master builder.

The building of this magnificent vessel now proceeded steadily and auspiciously, and as rapidly as so stupendous a work could be supposed to proceed. In 1840, Mr. Layhard, ship-builder to her Majesty, and his assistant, Mr. McKenzie, arrived in Bombay with plans from the lords of the Admiralty, and managed all the arrangements. These gentlemen having found it necessary in 1845 and 1846 to return to England because of sickness, were succeeded by Mr. Turner and his assistant, Mr. Ladd, under whom matters were brought to an auspicious conclusion in November, 1848. The whole work was performed by natives, of whom 600 were at one time engaged on the *Meanee* alone, while 500 were at the same time employed on the *Nerbudda* and *Junna*—there being in the end of the year 1847 no fewer than 2000 native workmen employed in the Bombay Dockyard at the same time in building or repairing ships of war. The *Meanee* was originally named the *Madras*; on Lord Ellenborough being appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, under Sir R. Peel's Government, after his recall from India, the name was changed to that which she now bears, in honour of the victory near Hyderabad, won by Sir Charles Napier on the 19th of February, 1843; when his Lordship was Governor-General. The figure-head, representing a native of Madras, had been prepared before the alteration occurred, and still remains, though no longer appropriate to the vessel.

At Bombay, spring tides rise to the height of sixteen and eighteen feet during the day and night, repeatedly being highest during the day, when the sun is to the north of the line, or from April to September, and during the night when the sun is to the south of it, from September to April, or during the cold weather season. The arrangements requiring to be made for the launch of such a ship were so many and so complex, that the day-tide was fixed on for this occasion, and it turned out lower by nearly



LAUNCH OF THE "MEANEE," 80 GUNS, AT BOMBAY.

water, she scarcely occasioned any ruffle or surge, and that no swell or perturbation was apparent as the sea closed up behind her; though some three thousand tons of water must have been displaced by her, the displacement was so gently effected as scarcely to occasion a swell. After the launch was over, a party of about three hundred partook of an elegant *déjeûné*, provided for them by Commodore Hawkins. All the arrangements were as perfect as might be, and the most made, by the excellence of the accessories, of a spectacle which in itself was peculiarly imposing. The following are the dimensions of the *Meanee*:—

Length of the Gun Deck	..	..	..	..	..	Feet	Inches
Ditto of Keel for Tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	190	0
Extreme Breadth	..	..	..	..	..	155	3
Breadth for Tonnage	..	..	..	..	..	56	9
Ditto Moulded	..	..	..	..	..	56	0
Depth in Hold	..	..	..	..	..	23	4
Burthen	..	..	..	..	..	about 2600 Tons.	

THE PARSEE HEAD BUILDER.

Cursetjee Rustumjee Waddia of the Honourable Company's Dockyard, Bombay, was born in 1785; and entered the yard under his uncle, Framjee, then Master Builder, in 1800, as an apprentice in the shipwrights' line. He was promoted to Fourth Assistant Builder in 1805, in which capacity he had the superintendence (in conjunction with the other assistants) of all ships building and repairing in the Bombay docks. In 1812 he was raised to the situation of Se-

cond Assistant; and, in 1817, to that of First Assistant. In 1821 became Second Builder, and as such, in 1831, received, as a mark of approbation, from the Honourable Court of Directors, a silver rule, in token of their estimation of the value of his services; and, finally, in 1844, was promoted to the very responsible situation of Head Builder at Bombay; his services embracing thus a period of nearly half a century.

In person, Cursetjee Rustumjee is of the middle height, with a remarkably pleasing and intelligent countenance, and possesses great activity, notwithstanding his increasing years (his age being 63). He is deservedly treated with the greatest consideration by the Government that he has for so long a period faithfully served.

With respect to the noble 80-gun ship, of which there are two Views, the *Meanee*, although a superintendent was appointed by the Lords of the Admiralty (Mr. George Turner), with an assistant (Mr. William Ladd), to overlook the work and give the lines, the whole of the laborious part of the building of the ship was performed under the directions of Cursetjee Rustumjee and his assistants, Jehangeer and Herjeebhoy. The *Meanee* is built of picked timber, and very highly finished.

We are indebted for the accompanying Views and Portrait to Daguerreotypes, cleverly taken by Mr. A. J. Roussac, of Bombay.

THE LAMB AND FLAG RAGGED SCHOOLS, CLERKENWELL.

The Committee of this excellent Institution having decided again to appeal to the subscribers for funds to enable them to furnish the children with a good Old English entertainment, accordingly set on foot a subscription, at the same time announcing that the balance would be appropriated towards the establishment of an Infant School. The result of this appeal to the good-feeling of the public at this season of hospitality has exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its promoters; for it is stated, that, after paying all expenses, the balance will be sufficiently large to induce the Committee at once to establish an Infant Day-school. Among the subscribers to this fund are Lords Ellesmere, Ashley, and Harrowby; Mr. Justice Erle; George Hitchcock, Esq.; Messrs. Nicholson, of St. John-street, disillars; H. B. Ker, Esq., &c.

Tuesday, the 2nd, was appointed for the Christmas festival, and all was bustle and animation in the miserable courts and alleys surrounding the Schools. The

three School-rooms were tastefully decorated for the occasion; and conspicuously were displayed some handsome maps, objects in natural history, &c., presented to the Schools by the Committee of Council on Education; while the silk banner of the institution, the gift of a member of the Committee, with its motto, "Ecce Agnus Ila Dei," suggested to the contemplative mind feelings of the most grateful character to the Giver of all Good for the origin of an institution so well calculated, under his blessing, to train up the children of the poor in the way they should go.

The following was the bill of fare:—190 lb. of fine roast beef, 12 plum puddings of 16 and 18 lb. weight each, 2 cwt. of the best potatoes, 9 gallons of table ale, bread, &c. The puddings were composed of 77 lb. of plums, 25 lb. of currants, 7 lbs. of candied peel, 1 gallon of milk, 1½ lb. of spice, 10 quarters of flour, 8 lb. of bread, 240 eggs, and 24 lb. of suet.

At twelve o'clock the children began to assemble; by one no less than 296 were seated; and a most gratifying spectacle it was to behold these poor children all decently clad—here and there some poor tattered and shoeless child proclaimed the nature of the institution in which they were assembled; but all were clean, forming a most powerful contrast to the state they were in before the schools were established.

The children being seated, and prayer having been offered to the Giver of all Good, they chaunted grace before meat with admirable precision; and in a few minutes all were engaged in despatching the good things before them; the ladies of the committee, teachers, and friends rendering all the assistance in their power to the enjoyment of their poor fellow-creatures.

Dinner being ended, and the children having chanted grace after meat, they were briefly addressed by Mr. Watts, the superintendent, who pointed out the great advantage of attending school, and of cultivating a religious education. The proceedings terminated by the children singing "God Save the Queen;" each child being presented, on leaving the School, with a penny, as "a Christmas-box."

In the evening the children were again assembled to witness the exhibition of a magic lantern on moral and religious subjects, accompanied with suitable remarks by Mr. Stephen Shirley, of Drury-lane, who, unsolicited, placed his services at the disposal of the committee. And thus ended the third Annual Festival of the Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools.



CURSETJEE RUSTOMJEE, HEAD BUILDER OF THE H. E. I. COMPANY'S DOCK AND SHIP BUILDING YARD AT BOMBAY.

cond Assistant; and, in 1817, to that of First Assistant. In 1821 became Second Builder, and as such, in 1831, received, as a mark of approbation, from the Honourable Court of Directors, a silver rule, in token of their estimation of the value of his services; and, finally, in 1844, was promoted to the very responsible situation of Head Builder at Bombay; his services embracing thus a period of nearly half a century.

In the course of this period upwards of one hundred large and small ships have been built for the Honourable Company, whilst for the service of the Crown there have been no less than ten line-of-battle ships, five frigates, and six brigs; also for his Highness the Imam of Muscat one line-of-battle ship, two frigates, and five sloops, besides numerous vessels for the merchant service.

On the occasion of driving the silver nail in her Majesty's brig *Goshawk* (afterwards *Nerbudda*), he had the satisfaction of receiving a silver hammer from one of the senior members of the Government, the Honourable Mr. James Henry Crawford.



"THE LAMB AND FLAG" RAGGED SCHOOLS.

THE CIRQUE NATIONAL, AT DRURY-LANE.

THE very clever performances of the equestrian troupe from the Champs Elysées, now at Drury-lane, are attracting nightly crowded and fashionable audiences; and the "Clowns of the Ring" bring down as hearty bursts of laughter as their clever confrères in the pantomimes. Although there is not much that is absolutely new to an English audience in the acts of horsemanship or drollery, yet the neat style in which everything is done—the attention to little matters—and the exceeding beauty of the costumes (depending generally more upon taste than spangles for their effect) produce an ensemble that cannot fail to attract. Mlle. Caroline and Mlle. Palmyre Anato are charming representatives of the different schools of equestrian performances; and M. Wehl and the Siegrists (an entire family) are daring to an almost fearful degree.

The forces combined are seen to the best advantage in an act called "La Lutte des Voltigeurs," which we have this week represented, and in which the new addition to the company, Mahomed Ben Said, performs some marvellous leaps and somersaults. The effect they produce in rapidly flying over the horse, one after another, until a continuous circle of vaulters is formed, is really exciting, and brings down thunders of applause.

The grotesques—Messrs. Auriol, father and son, and Leclair—fill up the intermediate time, between the different acts, with great éclat. Those who have not seen the latter performer strive to pick up his handkerchief, when he is upon stilts, and supposed to be slightly intoxicated, have still a hearty laugh in store.

A word for little Marie Anato, who is an exceedingly graceful dancer on horseback; and also for the general arrangements, which, under the superintendence of M. Dejean, are as perfect as could be desired.

CHARLES LAMB'S HOUSE,
COLEBROOK-ROW, NEAR ISLINGTON.

THIS was Charles Lamb's holiday house, the scene of the first substantial enjoyment of leisure, on his emancipation from the desk at the India House, and that routine of drudgery of which, in his own way, he writes thus:—"Confusion blast all mercantile transactions, all traffic, exchange of commodities, intercourse between nations, all the consequent civilization and wealth, and amity, and link of society, and getting rid of prejudices, and knowledge of the face of the globe, and rot the very firs of the forest, that look so romantic alive, and die into desks." This event occurred in 1825, and with the accompaniment of a handsome pension, the entire control of his own time, and a new sense of independence, may well be supposed to have proved, at first, somewhat perplexing, after the routine of Leadenhall-street, and the matter of fact entries of those "merchants and their spicy drugs, which are so harmonious to sing



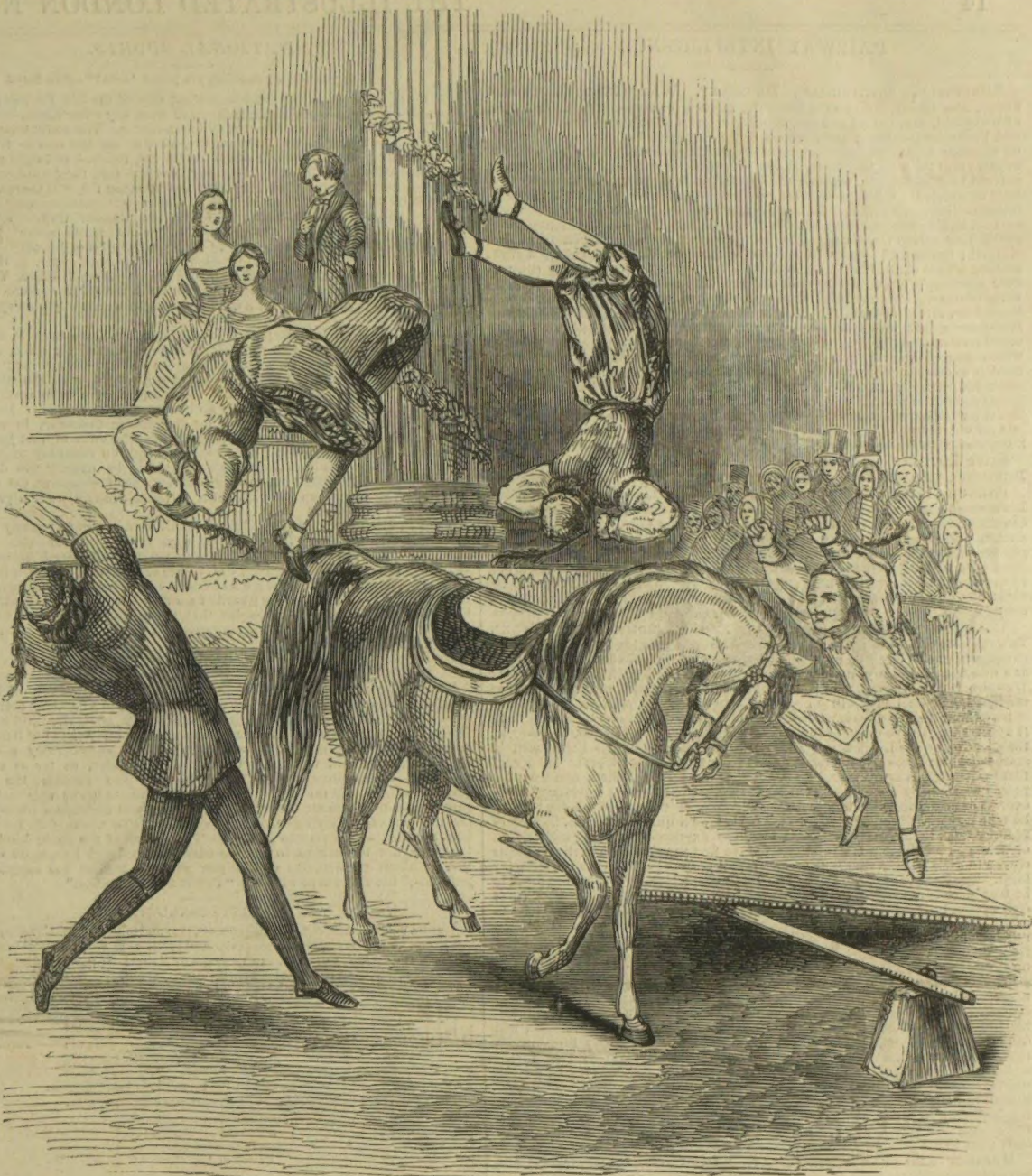
CHARLES LAMB'S HOUSE, NEAR ISLINGTON.

of." "The incomprehensibility of my condition," he says, "overwhelmed me. It was like passing from life into eternity. Every year to be as long as three, that is to have three times as much real time—that is my own—in it. I wandered about, thinking I was happy, but feeling I was not. But that tumultuousness is passing off, and I begin to understand the nature of the gift. Holidays, even the annual month, were always uneasy joys, with their conscious fugitiveness, the craving after making the most of them. Now, when all is holiday, there are no holidays. I can sit at home, in rain or shine, without a restless impulse for walkings. I am daily steady, and shall soon find it as natural to me to be my own master as it has been irksome to have had a master." Lamb had but little enjoyment in the country: his paradoxical genius had a proneness to convert poetical things into matters of fact, as it had to elevate the common-place into something which, by its raciness and geniality, was near akin to poetry.

Colebrook-row seems a spot ordained for Lamb, and it has just sufficient of the *rus in urbe*, without too much to separate it from a neighbourly character. There is a tree, but it is a true London willow—something not unlike that which grows upon a dinner-service of the "willow pattern." The waters, too, of the New River, which flows close by, are not of a volume to oppress the mind by its immensity, and here they are trimly curbed by a border of brickwork; one side affording a pleasant walk along its limpid margin, or where the disciples of Walton enjoy the harmless part of the angler's recreation, in patiently watching a tranquil float. Here Lamb enjoyed his dearly-earned leisure, with that sister who is known to the indifferent reader merely as Bridget Elia, and whose part in the Holborn tragedy only endeared her the more to him, in compassion for the mental disorganisation that precipitated it, while it brought out the generous and manly qualities of his nature, in the protection which her helplessness demanded; an act well repaid by a life of affection and kindly association afterwards.

The rails shown in the Cut (opposite the house) are those which Lamb had set up directly after, under his own careful inspection, in order to prevent the repetition of such a catastrophe for the future. The house is scarcely changed since Charles Lamb passed what may be considered the pleasantest portion of his life in it, and from this place issued some of the raciest of those conceits, and rare combinations of heterogeneous whims and fancies, which—sparkling in his matchless correspondence—give an importance to the most ordinary topics, and shed a grace over whatsoever they embody.

A NEW ANIMAL.—M. Antoine d'Abbadie, writing to the *Athenæum*, from Cairo, gives the following account of an animal new to European science, which account he received from Baron Von Müller, who had recently returned to that city from Kordofan:—"At Melpes, in Kordofan," said the Baron, "where I stopped some time to make my collections, I met on the 17th of April, 1848, a man who was in the habit of selling to me specimens of animals. One day he asked me if I wished also for an A'nasa, which he described thus:—"It is of the size of a small donkey, has a thick body and thin bones, coarse hair, and tail like a boar. It has a long horn on its forehead, and lets it hang when alone, but erects it immediately on seeing an enemy. It is a formidable weapon; but I do not know its exact length. The A'nasa is found not far from here (Melpes), towards the S.S.W. I have seen it often in the wild grounds, where the negroes kill it, and carry it home to make shields from its skin."—N.B. This man was well acquainted with the rhinoceros, which he distinguished under the name of Fertit from the A'nasa. On June 14 I was at Korsi, also in Kordofan, and met there a slave merchant who was not acquainted with my first informer, and gave me spontaneously the same description of the A'nasa, adding that he had killed and eaten one not long before, and that its flesh was well-flavoured." Herr Rüppell and M. Fresnel," adds M. d'Abbadie, "have already spoken of a one-horned African quadruped; and I have also some notes which tend to establish the existence of, perhaps, two different kinds."



"LA LUTTE DES VOLTIGEURS," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

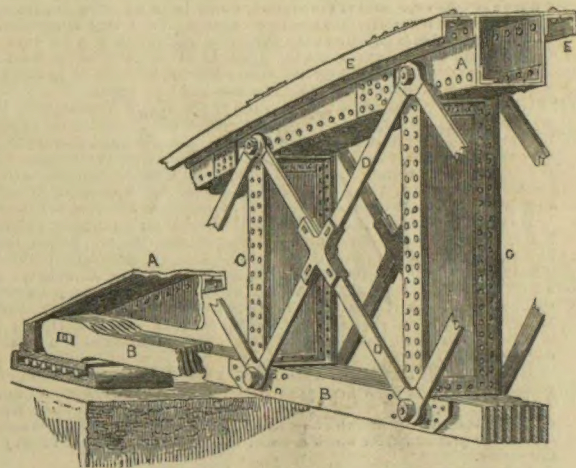
BLACKWALL EXTENSION RAILWAY BRIDGE
OVER THE COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST.

AN interesting festival, in celebration of the completion of Mr. Brassey's contract on the railway works of the Blackwall Extension, was held at the London Coffee-house, Ludgate-hill, on Wednesday last. Joseph Locke, Esq., M.P., presided, supported by the Chairman and Directors of the Blackwall Company, the East and West India Dock Railway Company; W. Chaplin, Esq., M.P.; R. D. Mangles, Esq., M.P., and a large number of gentlemen interested in railway business. Mr. H. E. Burt officiated as Vice-President.

The object of this new link in the metropolitan system of railways is to bring the Eastern Counties and other lines, now terminating at Shoreditch, more immediately into the City, which is effected by a branch from the old Blackwall Railway at Stepney, to join the Eastern Counties line at Old Ford.

We have engraved the most remarkable work—the Bridge by which the line crosses the Commercial-road East.

The peculiar construction of this Bridge will be understood by reference to the annexed diagram. The front end shows a section through the trussed girder at 1, 2 (see large view). The strength of the Bridge depends upon the rib or arch A A, and the tie-bars B B, by which the extremities are held together. The vertical stays, or pendant (C C), support the tie-bars (B B), and connect and distribute the weight of the floor equally throughout the entire arch; they also give great longitudinal and transverse firmness to the structure. The diagonal braces, D D, prevent undue deflexion when the girder is unequally loaded. The arch is strengthened laterally by the overhanging of the top rail, E E. The whole arch and stays are constructed of boiler-plates and angle iron. The tie-bars are each 8 inches wide, and 1 inch thick, and as many are used as will bear the requisite strain. One foot of the arch is fixed in the masonry, but the other, as is shown, is fitted with a sliding shoe on rollers, to admit of expansion, &c.



It was constructed by Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., under the direction of Mr. Locke, M.P.



BLACKWALL EXTENSION RAILWAY BRIDGE, COMMERCIAL-ROAD EAST.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

SHEFFIELD, ROTHERHAM, BARNLEY, WAKEFIELD, HUDDERSFIELD, AND GOOLE RAILWAY.—Since the meeting of this company, last week, at Wakefield, for altering and modifying the terms of lease to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company, the directors, at the request of the proprietors, issued, on Saturday last, a financial statement of the company's affairs, from which it appears that the total payments, as per statement at last half-yearly meeting, amount to £73,738, and, together with subsequent payments of £21,420, to a total of £95,158. The future liabilities of the company, under contract, are as follows:—Messrs. Miller and Co.'s contract for works, including all contingencies, £146,254; less amount paid, £54,412; total, £91,842—to which are to be added, land agreed for, £4201; material for permanent way, timber, rails, &c., £21,691; interest on shares, £4583; directory, £900; engineering, £4790; making a total of £127,967. The estimated future liabilities not under contract are: solicitors' charges, £900; land not agreed for and conveyancing, £11,881; office charges, £550; material for permanent way, and cost of stations, not contracted for, £15,000—total, £28,331; or a grand total of £251,456. The directors observe, that in this position they have distinguished the liabilities which are of certain amount, from their being under special contract, from those to which some contingency may attach. The amount of items under the latter head is so comparatively small as to afford them every reason to expect that the estimated capital of £250,000, for which the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company's guarantee of 5 per cent. and half-profits provides, will be more than sufficient for the completion of the entire works of the railway, which they calculate the contractor will have no difficulty in accomplishing by December next, if supplied with the necessary funds.

EAST LOTHIAN.—The shareholders intend to apply, next session of Parliament, for a dissolution of their company.

FRENCH RAILWAY REGULATIONS.—The Central Railway Committee has ordered that for the future the various companies shall adopt the system of communication established on the Orleans and Vierzon lines, between the conductors who sit behind and the engine-men in front. This system consists in placing behind the tender a special conductor, fronting the diligences and wagons, with whom the other conductors placed at the extremity of the train are to correspond by means of a flag during the day, and a coloured lantern by night. In case of any signal of an accident, the conductor near the tender, and consequently close to the engine-man, can ring an alarm-clock.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY AND PERIODICAL PASSENGER TICKETS.—The following statement in reference to a meeting of certain regular passengers on this line has been published:—"Certain resolutions were passed at a meeting of railway passengers on the 18th Dec., held at the Hero of Waterloo Tavern, the fourth of which conveys the conclusion of those attending the meeting: 'That they will support and adopt, as far as possible, other modes of travelling, if a more reasonable dealing with the public cannot be maintained.' It appears that the occasion of the meeting in question is twofold, viz.—First, the adoption by the London and South-Western Railway of the experiment of season-tickets; secondly, the raising of the double-journey tickets. It appears that season-tickets are now issued for the first time on this line, and afford a person whose daily occupation leads him to town the means of travelling by the express or any other train in a first-class carriage, at the rate of 1d. per mile, if he take a yearly ticket, or 1½d. per mile if he take a quarterly ticket, instead of 2½d. per mile, the ordinary first-class fare, the express fares being higher. In other words, a reduction is now offered for the first time (to such of the public as choose to avail themselves of the arrangement) of 60 per cent. below the ordinary fares. The complaint of the railway travellers of the Hero of Waterloo appears to be that more is not offered. The answer of the directors to this charge is, of course, simply that they consider this as large a reduction as it is judicious to offer. On the second point: By taking a double-journey ticket at the rates raised as they, in some instances, now are, a passenger may still effect a saving of from 10 to 16 per cent. upon the fares authorised by Parliament, and charged upon this line. The complaint of the railway travellers in question is, that a greater drawback should be allowed, because it has hitherto, in some cases, been allowed. The answer of the directors, as in the season tickets, is that they consider the present drawback as much as it is judicious to offer. It may be remarked that the effect of both the arrangements complained of, viz. season and double-journey tickets, is greatly to reduce the rate of the ordinary fares authorised by Parliament, and charged upon this line (which remain as they were) and consequently to give the public something beyond that to which they are strictly entitled, and yet these additional inducements to travel are made the subject of a grave complaint, and the occasion of an attempt at a public meeting." It may be mentioned, in addition, that with a view to public accommodation during this festive season, the directors have put on "theatre trains," which start from the Waterloo station three times a week at midnight.

DUNDEE AND PERTH RAILWAY, PERTH STATION.—Operations have commenced this week to erect a temporary station for this railway betwixt Prince's-street and the river. This is to be the site of the permanent passenger station, the connexion by the viaduct with the general terminus being intended chiefly for the thorough goods traffic. An inclined plane has been formed, from Prince's street to the level of the viaduct, which is 18 feet above the shore road, about the middle of which the offices are erecting. The bridge is completed all to the draw, which is expected to be finished in the course of a few days. The draw is to work horizontally, on the principle of the gates at the West India Docks of London; and it is expected to be so easily wrought as to cause little detention, in the event of a passage being required for a vessel.

BLACKBURN, BOLTON, CLITHEROE, AND WEST YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—The directors of this company have come to the determination to push on the opening of the Clitheroe branch as quickly as possible, and in order to do so, have determined to complete a single line of rails, and to economise the expenses of bridges, station houses, &c.; and what is most important to friendly societies not enrolled, they have relaxed a former rule adopted, of not borrowing money in sums under £500, but to accept smaller sums at five per cent.

RAILWAY CALLS, 1848.—The following is an accurately calculated list of calls on all classes of railway shares, whether English, Scotch, Irish, or foreign, made for each month during 1848:—January, £4,860,131; February, £2,272,542; March, £3,135,920; April, £2,769,779; May, £3,246,848; June, £2,777,674; July, £4,077,246; August, £3,122,773; September, £2,625,936; October, £1,639,655; November, £1,691,629; December, £1,478,253. The total amount of calls on all classes of shares for 1847 was £42,071,893; being £8,829,491 more than in 1848. The calls already announced and payable for January, 1849, amount to £3,606,588.

READING, GUILDFORD, AND REIGATE.—It is the intention of this company, whose time is nearly completed, to apply to Parliament in the ensuing session to extend their line and form a junction with the Great Western, at Caversham; to accomplish which they must pass under the Great Western by a tunnel, a proposition for which is under the consideration of the railway commissioners.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN.—A testimonial has been presented to Mr. Dockray, the resident engineer of the London and North-Western Railway, in the shape of his own portrait, painted by Mr. W. H. Phillips, and an elegant service of plate, with the further addition of £500 in London and North-Western stock, purchased at par, and now at about £25 premium. A testimonial of this kind is honourable alike to the givers and the recipient. We understand that had not the subscription been limited to a certain amount, a very much larger sum could easily have been collected. Mr. Charles Long, of the secretary's department, has acted as honorary secretary in this matter, and rendered very valuable aid in promotion of the object in view.

EAST LANCASHIRE.—The last link in this line (of some 90 miles in length, and which, at a cost of between two and three millions, completes the railway system between Lancaster and Yorkshire, accommodating a population of 400,000 persons), from Burnley to Cole, where the main line becomes connected with the Leeds and Bradford, is now ready for opening. Goods trains, to test its structure and consolidate its permanent way, traverse it daily, and the passenger traffic will commence at the expiration of the month.

CONWAY TUBULAR BRIDGE.—The second tube at Conway was to be finally tested on Monday, previous to its being opened for traffic. After the opening of this tube, the other will be temporarily closed, in order to remove the wooden sleepers, and replace them by iron ones, to correspond with the one now about being tested.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.—Some important alterations in railway arrangements have come into operation with the new year. The mails will henceforth run through from London into Lincolnshire, both by the North-Western and Eastern Counties routes, over the newly opened Great Northern and East Lincolnshire Railways, and will, consequently, be much accelerated. Passengers by these mails will also have the option of travelling either by the London and North-Western or Eastern Counties lines. Formerly there was no mail for this purpose on the latter line, which was felt to be inconvenient. On the Great Western, in compliance with the Post-office, the northern mail from Exeter will leave for the intermediate towns and London at 2.45 instead of as formerly at 3.20. On the London and North-Western, the trains, both on the northern and southern division, have been accelerated, viz. their arrivals and departures at the termini are earlier.

IMPORT AND CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN 1848.—The annual cotton report of Messrs. Heywood and M'Vicar, of Liverpool, shows, as usual, at this period of the year, the imports, sales, and stocks of cotton, for 1848. Upon the supposition that the spinners hold 60,000 bales more than at the same period in 1847, the consumption of cotton appears to have increased 5420 bales weekly, or 281,000 bales in the whole. The falling off in 1847 from 1846 was 431,000 bales, the recovery in 1848 is 281,000 bales. This, it must be remembered, says the report, is only the average of the year, for the consumption actually going on is probably as large as the average of 1846, the year of the greatest consumption yet known.

STONE COFFINS FOUND NEAR DUNFERMLINE.—The other day, while some workmen were forming a drain at the east end of the new burying-ground at Dunfermline, a few yards south of the site of the altar, they discovered a range of eight stone coffins, of rude construction. In each of the coffins was a skull and other bones, so much decayed that they generally crumbled into dust when handled. From the rude construction of the coffins, it is evident that they must have been interred at a period earlier than that of the death of King Robert the Bruce. Though there is nothing about these coffins to guide to any definite conjecture, we may infer, from having been found so near the altar, that the persons had occupied no inconsiderable place as ecclesiastical dignitaries or civic officials, or may have distinguished themselves in some of the ancient crusades.—*Scottish Guardian.*

NATIONAL SPORTS.

"Do you take my meaning, you young 'coon?"—SAM SLICK.

The 1st of January is the most important day of the 365 for those who, out of reverence for the prevailing fashion, or from any other cause, occupy themselves with the theory or practice of horse-racing. The nominations for many of the most popular races of the season, as well as the entries for stakes to be run in future years, close when it has reached midnight; and with the succeeding dawn, the "coming events cast their shadows before." The list consists of items far too numerous to insert; it will therefore be most convenient to quote as samples two of the most immediate concern: these are, the Great Metropolitan Stakes and the Chester Cup. The articles for the former recite that it shall "close and name to Messrs. Weatherby, 6, Old Burlington-street, London, on the 1st of January;" the latter on the same day, with Messrs. Weatherby, as aforesaid: Mr. E. W. Topham, clerk of the course, Chester, and Mr. R. Johnson, *Herald* office, York. And these depositions say no further. Thus the conditions begin and end; no provision whatever being made for their announcement within any time specified—or at all!

The Metropolitan Handicap and the Chester Cup have been in the market for a month or two, and many horses have been backed for them, in the belief or the hope that they would at least be entered—to say nothing of their accepting. When will the public be made acquainted with the first of these issues? The parties who received the nominations have been several days in possession of the intelligence—it is still news for the million. Persons who applied in the middle of the week for the *Racing Calendar*, in which they reckoned on finding the information, were told at the office of that journal, that it would not be published till after twelve o'clock on Saturday the 6th—when the entries which closed on New Year's Day would be exactly five days and a half old. Should a little bird, by any accident, have whispered the contents of that tardy broadsheet to the ears of the *fortunati nimium*, what a pretty *apres* they had to play with!

Yes! P. P. betting is Aladdin's lamp. Shall we despair of a remedy for an evil so crying as this? No! These are the days of great discoveries. *El Dorado* has turned up on the peninsula of California; and *M. Antoine d'Abbadie* has not only found the unicorn inhabiting the valleys of Kordofan, but of a much more picturesque physiology than fable had drawn it—with a horn that can be raised or lowered at pleasure, like the guard of a carving-fork. The despotism of the Greeks must yield to the liberal spirit that is abroad; and the hour is not remote in which the laureate of the ring shall thus record the altered features of Hyde Park Corner:—

Such is the aspect of this shore:
'Tis Greece—but living Greece no more!

The early part of the week was bound in frost, and no portion of it was appointed for any sporting matter of public account. Although there was no official authority for the assumption, it was pretty generally understood that the promise of the turf was in the ascendant. The early Epsom handicap, for which, last year, the nominations were 91, has very considerably advanced on that quotation; and the Chester Cup will be better, as far as subscribers go, than its predecessor. The odds subjoined furnish the *status in quo* of speculation in the system likely to predominate in the approaching campaign, as a substitute for the defunct "Sweeps" will embrace a library of books for the purpose of laying against everything. To these will be added the banks opened with a view to public accommodation of the same kind. It will, therefore, not be difficult to get the odds. Should you lose, there will be no trouble about the deposit; should you win (do not be too sanguine), "*uti possidetis*," the English of which is "Put it in your pocket."

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The betting, this afternoon, turned chiefly on the Chester Cup; for which Great Western, Athelstane, and Mrs. Taft were in general request. There was nothing, however, in the shape of "movement," the quotations, with two or three trifling exceptions, remaining as before.

CHESTER CUP.		
35 to 1 agst Cossack (t)	50 to 1 agst Geraldine (t)	55 to 1 agst Eagle's Plume (t)
40 to 1 — The Tartar (t)	50 to 1 — Mrs. Taft (t)	65 to 1 — Chanticleer (t)
50 to 1 — Melody (t)	50 to 1 — Blaze (t)	65 to 1 — Kelebek (t)
50 to 1 — Great Western (t)	50 to 1 — Athelstane (t)	100 to 1 — Fernhill (t)
	100 to 1 agst Puss the Ninth (t)	

DERBY.		
35 to 1 agst Strongbow (t)	40 to 1 agst Elthion	

THURSDAY.—The following were the only blows struck:—

METROPOLITAN HANDICAP.		
500 to 15 agst The Tartar		
CHESTER CUP.		
1000 to 15 agst Clermont		
DERBY.		
1000 to 30 agst Strongbow	1000 to 15 agst Silistria colt	2000 to 25 agst Velvet colt

Mr. Cruagh's Cawrough died on Wednesday last.

At a meeting of the General Board of Health at Gwydyr House on Wednesday, Lord Ashley in the chair, a deputation from Birmingham, consisting of the mayor, Aldermen Phillips and Martineau, and the town-clerk, had an interview, and presented a petition from the rated inhabitants, praying for the application of the Public Health Act to that town.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE FROM FIRE.—The following is a summary of fires attended, and human life saved, by means of the Society's fire-escapes and conductors, since its re-establishment in 1843.

Year.	Number of Stations.	Fires attended.	Lives saved.
1844	9	increased during year to 11	68
1845	11	"	83
1846	15	"	160
1847	21	"	198
1848	24	"	213

STILLING THE WAVES.—Intelligence was received at Lloyd's, last week, of the total loss of the brig *Fortschritt*, of Stettin, Rondelsch master, bound to Dublin, on the North Sand. On the vessel striking, the master and crew, eight in number, got into the long boat, starting a large quantity of oil overboard, which prevented the sea, as they went before it across the sand, from breaking into their boat. This novel expedient preserved their lives, as the boat would otherwise have been swamped, and they must all have perished; they were thus able to cross the sand, and were picked up and landed in Rams-gate.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS FOR THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

At the commencement of a new year, a brief review of the fluctuations in Consols, during the past twelve months, may not be uninteresting. On the 1st of January, 1848, Consols were 85½ for account, having attained that price from 78½, at which price they had been done the previous October. Upon the news of the abdication of Louis Philippe, prices receded from 88 to 85, and in a few days declined to 80½. A gradual reaction, however, succeeded this sudden fall; and in June, 85 became the current quotation. From this period, although fluctuations to the extent of one or two per cent. have repeatedly occurred, the movement has been upward; and on the 1st of January, 1849, the price of Consols was 89. The fluctuations in the Share Market have been still more striking. On the 1st of January, 1848, Great Westerns quoted 7½ pm., attained 15½ pm., and now quote 8½ discount. North-Westerns quoted 48 pm., advanced to 54 pm., and have been done at par, now quoting 25 pm. South-Westerns were 9½ pm., advanced to 14½ pm., and, after declining to 14½ discount, are now about 9½ discount. Eastern Counties quoted 4½ discount, have fallen to 8½ discount, and are now about 8 discount.

The English Market displayed great firmness at the commencement of the week, Consols advancing to 89½. Some realising on Wednesday, however, added to a belief that the unanimity in France already appeared, lessening, caused heaviness, which again pervaded Thursday's market. Consols receded to 88½ to 89, and the market still continued heavy. As the account approaches, it will be seen whether the party for the rise have not overbought themselves, as it is surmised that the present reaction arises from sales to cover large accounts. Exchequer Bills remain firm, and Bank Stock quotes a slight advance for the opening. The following list of closing prices indicates the tendency of the market:—Bank Stock, 191; Reduced, 88½; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. Annuities, 89½; Long Annuities, to expire Oct. 10, 1859, 87-16; India Bonds, £1000, 42 p.; Ditto under £1000, 42 p.; Consols for Account, 89; Exchequer Bills, £1000, March, 45 p.; £1000, June, 44 p.; Small, March, 43 p.; Small, June, 42 p.

There has been considerable animation in the Foreign Market during the past week. Mexicans have been done at 25½, and Peruvian at 48½ to 50. Portuguese also slightly partook of this improved state of prices. Although at present not quite so buoyant, the Market continues good, as the following list of closing prices will best evidence:—Buenos Ayres Bonds, Six per Cent., 25½; Mexican, Five per Cent., 1846, Account, 25½; Peruvian Bonds, Six per Cent., 48½; Ditto, Account, 48½; Portuguese, Four per Cent., 26½; Ditto, Account, 25½; Spanish Five per Cent., Account, 13½; Ditto, Three per Cent., Account, 26½ ex d; Venezuela Bonds, Two-and-a-Quarter per Cent., 19½; Dutch, Two-and-a-Half per Cent., 12 Guilders, 48½; Ditto, Four per Cent., Certificates, 77.

Shares, although not so buoyant as at the beginning of the week, still remain firm, with an upward tendency. The panic in the public mind has evidently subsided, and a gradual and firm advance seems highly probable.—Bristol and Exeter, 65; Caledonian, 22; Ditto, Half Shares, 2½; Ditto, New, £10, Preference, 8½; Chester and Holyhead, Preference, 13½; East Anglia, £25, L. and E. and L. and D., 4½; Ditto, £3 10s. 3; Eastern Counties, 11½; Ditto, New, Guaranteed Six per Cent., 11½; East Lancashire, 19½; Ditto, New, 15; Ditto, New Quarters, 4½; East Lincolnshire, 26½ x.1.; Exeter, Yeovil, and Dorchester, 13; Great Northern, 9½; Ditto, Half, B. Six per Cent. guaranteed, 4½; Great Western, 9½; Ditto, Half Shares, 46; Ditto, Quarter Shares, 18; Hull and Selby, 9½; Ditto, Half Shares, 49½; Ditto (W. Riding Union), 2½; Leeds and Bradford, 9½; London and Blackwall, 4½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 32½; Ditto, Guarant. Five per Cent., 9½; Ditto, New £5, Guarant. Six per Cent., 5½; London and North-Western, New, 9½; London and South-Western, 41½; Ditto, Thirds, 10½; Ditto, New Script, 1848, Pref., Seven per Cent. on Deposit, and Five per Cent. on Calls, 5½; Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock, 5½; Manch., Shef., and Lin., New, £10 Pref., 11½; Midland, 87; Do., Consolid. Pref., £50 Shares, 18 x.1.; Do., Consol, Bristol, and Birmingham, Six per Cent., 123; Norfolk, 48; Ditto, Guaranteed Five-and-a-Half per Cent., 4½ x.1.; North British, 16½; Ditto, Halves, 7; Ditto, Quarters, 3½; Ditto, Thirds, 4½; North Staffordshire, 11½;

Reading Guildford, and Reigate, 10½; Royston and Hitchin, 2; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 3; ditto, Class B, 1½; Shrewsbury, Chester, and Oswestry, 12½ x.1.; Shropshire Union, 1½; South-Eastern, 24½; Ditto, Registered No. 4, 7½; South Wales, 7½ x.1.; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 28½; Ditto, Original New and Berwick, 27½; Do., Extension No. 1, 15½; Do., do., No. 2, 15; Do., G.N.E. Preference, 7½ x.1.; York and North Midland, 56; Ditto, Preference, 10½ x.1.; Boulogne and Amiens, 8½; Namur and Liege, 5½; Northern of France, 8; Orleans and Bordeaux, 2½; Paris and Rouen, 18½; Paris and Strasbourg, 2½; Rouen and Havre, 9½.

SATURDAY MORNING.—Consols opened heavily yesterday, and continued flat during the day, the current quotation being 88½ for the opening. Shares were also a trifle heavier. In the Foreign Market there was no change of importance.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE (Friday).—The quantity of wheat received up to our market since Saturday last has not exceeded 2410 quarters. By land carriage, the receipts have been equally limited. To-day the stands were scantily filled with samples of both red and white. Picked qualities sold steadily, at full prices, but all other kinds of English wheat were dull in sale, at barely late rates. Upwards of 41,000 quarters of foreign wheat have come in, and been placed in bond. On the whole, the demand for free parcels was tolerably steady, at prices about equal to those paid on Monday last. In bonded qualities no sales. An immense supply of foreign barley (50,210 quarters) has come to hand, and the supply of English was good. The trade was excessively dull, at a decline in the quotations of from 1s to 2s per quarter, at which no progress could be made. Malt—the supply of which was moderately extensive—was very dull in sale, and prices had a downward tendency. The best parcels of oats were held at full currencies, but the middling and out-of-condition sorts were 6d to 1s per quarter lower. All other articles were dull in the extreme, and more easier to purchase.

ARRIVALS.—English: wheat, 2410; barley, 7080; oats, 7570. Irish: barley, —; oats, 50. Foreign: wheat, 41,230; barley, 50,210; oats, 30,890. Flour, 3020 sacks; malt, 5960 quarters. English: Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 42s to 50s; ditto, white, 47s to 57s; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 40s to 49s; ditto, white, 44s to 53s; rye, 28s to 30s; grinding barley, 24s to 27s; distilling ditto, 29s to 31s; maiting ditto, 32s to 35s; Northern and Lincoln malt, 57s to 59s; brown ditto, 42s to 54s; Kingston and Ware, 50s to 60s; Chaveller, 60s to 61s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 17s to 20s; potato ditto, 17s to 24s; Youghal and Cork, black, 15s to 20s; ditto, white, 17s to 21s; tick beans, new, 25s to 31s; ditto, old, —s to —s; grey peas, 32s to 34s; mangle, 33s to 35s; white, 30s to 32s; bolsters, 32s to 34s per quarter. Town-made flour, 41s to 46s; Suffolk, 36s to 38s; Stockton and Yorkshire, 34s to 38s, per 280 lbs.—Foreign: Danzig red wheat, —s to —s; white, —s to —s; barley, —s to —s; oats, —s to —s; beans, —s to —s; peas, —s to —s, per quarter. Flour, American, 50s to 50s per barrel; Baltic, —s to —s per barrel.

The Seed Market.—Canary seed is fully 5s per quarter lower. The value of all other kinds of seed is almost nominal. Linseed cakes are held at full prices.

Linedseed. English, sowing, 56s to 60s; Baltic, crushing, 42s to 48s; Mediterranean and China, 48s to 49s; hempseed, 45s to 46s; per quarter; coir, 1s to 1½s per cwt. Brophy mustards—seed, 9s to 12s; white ditto, 8s to 11s 6d; tares, 7d 0d to 10s 6d per bushel; English rapeseed, new, 22s to 23s per last of ten quarters; linedseed cakes, English, £11 10s to £12 10s; ditto, foreign, £2 10s to £10 10s per 1000; rapeseed cakes, £4 15s to £5 per ton; canary, 7s to 9s per quarter. English clover seed, red, —s to —s; extra, —s to —s; white, —s to —s; extra, —s to —s. Foreign, red, —s to —s; extra, —s to —s; white, —s to —s; extra, —s to —s.

Imperial Weight Average.—Wheat, 46s 10d; barley, 31s 3d; oats, 18s 0d; rye, 28s 6d; beans, 33s 11d; peas, 38s 9d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 48s 0d; barley, 31s 9d; oats, 19s 1d; rye, 29s 7d; beans, 35s 1d; peas, 38s 8d.

On the Foreign Corn.—Wheat, 9s 0d; barley, 2s 0d; oats, 3s 0d; rye, 2s 0d; beans, 2s 0d; peas, 2s 0d.

Tea.—Low congou is in good request, at a slight advance in the quotations. Otherwise the market is tolerably firm. The supplies offering are by no means heavy.

Sugar.—The raw market is somewhat active, at an improvement in value of from 6d to 1s per cwt. Refined goods are firm, at 47s 6d to 51s per cwt.

Coffee.—Ceylon parcels are held at 1s to 2s per cwt more money. Good ordinary may be quoted at 32s to 32s 6d per cwt. Other kinds of coffee support late rates.

Provisions.—The arrivals of butter from Ireland having fallen off, and the weather having become cold, the demand for that article is steady, and last week's prices are well supported. A few very prime qualities of foreign butter have sold at 100s to 102s per cwt., the value of other kinds being firm. English butter is far from active, at 92s to 98s for fine, and 7s to 8s per cwt. for middling. Fresh is quoted at 8s to 14s per dozen. The sale for bacon is tolerably steady, at very full prices. The best parcels of English cheese are quite as dear, but all other kinds—the consumption of which is greatly interfered with by the American supplies—are easier to purchase. Hams are from 1s to 2s per cwt. lower, with a heavy demand. In lard and all other kinds of provisions very little business is doing.

Tallow.—This article is very dull, at 42s per cwt. on the spot. For forward delivery, scarcely any sales have taken place. Town tallow is 42s 6d to 44s per cwt. net cash.

Oils.—For home consumption as well as for export, the demand is somewhat firm, and prices are well supported.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, £2 8s to £3 14s; clover ditto, £3 10s to £4 13s; and straw, £1 2s to £1 9s per load.

Spirits.—Rum is in better demand, and prices are a shade higher. Brandy and corn spirits are also dear.

Coal (Friday).—Chester Main, 16s 6d; Hasling's Hayles, 14s 6d; Ord's Redheugh, 13s 6d; Eden Main, 18s; Haswell, 19s; Stewart's, 19s 6d per ton.

Hops (Friday).—We continue to be but moderately supplied with most kinds of hops. Selected samples are in moderate request, at last week's quotations. Otherwise the demand is heavy, at barely stationary prices.—Sussex packets, £2 3s to £3 18s; Weald of Kent, ditto, £2 8s to £3 5s; Mid and East Kent, ditto, £2 12s to £3 17s.

Smithfield (Friday).—The supply of beasts on sale in to-day's market was very moderate, even the time of year considered, and of middling quality. The few prime Scots on offer sold at prices quite equal to those paid on Monday last. All other breeds were a very dull inquiry, at barely late rates. There were on show 191 beasts from Scotland, 20 ditto from Holland, and 70 ditto from Spain. With sheep we were scantily supplied; nevertheless, the demand for that description of stock was in a sluggish state, and in some instances the quotations had a downward tendency, without effecting a clearance. Calves—the supply of which was small—moved off steadily, at full currencies. The pork trade was heavy; in prices, however, we have no change to notice. Milch cows were quoted at from £14 to £18 each, including their small calf.

By the side of the stalls.—Coarse and inferior beasts, 3s 0d to 3s 4d; second quality ditto, 3s 6d to 3s 8d; prime large oxen, 3s 8d to 3s 10d; prime Scots, 4s, 4s 0d to 4s 2d; coarse and inferior sheep, 3s 2d to 3s 6d; second quality ditto, 3s 8d to 4s 0d; prime coarse-woolled ditto, 4s 0d to 4s 2d; prime South Down ditto, 4s 8d to 4s 10d; large coarse calves, 3s 6d to 4s 0d; prime small ditto, 4s 2d to 4s 4d; large hogs, 3s 10d to 4s 4d; neat small porkers, 4s 6d to 4s 8d. Suckling calves, 20s to 25s; and quarter old store pigs, 17s to 22s each. Total supply: Beasts, 147; 44 cows; 140 sheep; 420 pigs; 100 pigs; 160. Foreign supplies: Beasts, 60; sheep, 150; calves, 32; Scotch: Beasts, 191; sheep, 460.

Newgate and Leadenhall (Friday).—These markets were heavy to-day, and prices were with difficulty supported:—

Per 8lb by the carcass:—Inferior beef, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; middling ditto, 2s 10d to 3s 0d; prime large ditto, 3s 2d to 3s 4d; prime small ditto, 3s 4d to 3s 6d; large pork, 3s 6d to 4s 0d; inferior mutton, 2s 8d to 3s 2d; middling ditto, 3s 4d to 3s 10d; prime ditto, 4s 0d to 4s 4d; veal, 3s 4d to 4s 4d; small pork, 4s 2d to 4s 6d.

ROBT. HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2.

OFFICE OF ORDNANCE, JAN. 1.

Royal Regiment of Artillery: Cadets to be Second Lieutenants.—F Miller, vice Govan; R W Haig, vice Ingilby; C H Owen, vice Gabbett; G A Milman, vice Yates; R Boyle, vice Ferrars; C B Piers, vice Thrupp; E Lucas, vice Mainwaring; L H Dunn, vice A Gordon; G M Pasley, vice W J Williams; P W L Ewart, vice



MOSAIC, JUST ADDED TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM COLLECTION.

MOSAIC AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

This beautiful specimen of Mosaic has lately been brought from Athens, and has been presented to the Museum by Mr. Hudson Gurney. It is placed in the central Grand Salon of Antiquities.

When received in this country the slab was broken, but it has been very carefully restored by Sir Richard Westmacott. It measures 8 feet by 7 feet 6 inches, and bears the representation of a Water Deity. (*Jupiter Pluvius*.) The general colour is a reddish brown; but the hair and beard are dark green, and resembles sea-weed.

The Museum has been closed during the past week for the usual vacation, but will be re-opened on Monday next, the 8th. During the four days the Museum was open in Christmas week, the number of visitors amounted to 37,260: of which, on Tuesday, the number were 12,875; Wednesday, 14,435; Thursday, 2231; and Friday, 779; in all, 37,260, which, considering the shortness of the days and the inclemency of the weather, is a much larger number than usual.

M. T. BAINES, ESQ.—We mentioned last week that Matthew Talbot Baines, Esq., Q.C., the eldest son of the late Edward Baines, Esq., of Leeds, had been appointed President of the Poor-Law Board, in the place of the late Charles Buller, Esq. Mr. Baines, who is one of the representatives of Hull, has since issued an address to the electors of that borough. He says:—"The office upon which I am about to enter has been offered to me spontaneously. It has not been sought or solicited by me in any way whatever, and, least of all, has it been earned by any political subservency, unworthy alike of you and myself. I have accepted it, not because I was ignorant of the difficulties and labours by which it is and ever must be attended, but because I thought it presented opportunities of doing good, which I could not have hoped for in a merely private station. * * Should I have the honour of being re-elected, I may promise myself the pleasure of being able to do this more efficiently hereafter, inasmuch as I shall no longer be obliged to absent myself from London during any part of the session of Parliament (which the pursuit of my profession has hitherto rendered necessary), but shall always be upon the spot to watch over your interests and to promote them by every means in my power." The election will not take place until after the meeting of Parliament.

THE POPE AND THE BELGIANS.—The Belgians are circulating a respectful address to his Holiness Pope Pius IX., dated Christmas-day, in which, after reminding the Pope of the respect, submission, and loyalty evinced by the Belgians at all times for his Holiness, they highly deprecate recent events, which compelled him to flee from the patrimony inherited from St. Peter; and offer their persons and property, in order to re-establish, wholly and intact, the exercise of the spiritual and temporal authority of the Holy See. In any other

age than this, every true Catholic would have shuddered at such acts, and would have come from every quarter under Heaven to re-establish the Pope in his just rights. They entreat him, in conclusion, to extend his benediction to his faithful Belgian children, and that hand from which the Angel of the Lord caused the chains to fall, in the night in which he led him through the midst of the guards who were watching him in his captivity. This address was got up, in the first instance, by Count L. T. Ratisbon, of Boorsteck. It has already obtained numerous signatures.

EXTRAORDINARY TELEGRAPH FEAT.—President Polk's cumbrous Message, containing upwards of 50,000 words (!), was flashed all the way from Baltimore to St. Louis in twenty-four hours, and this, too, with the minutest punctuation mark in the document. Copies were also dropped, on the way, at York, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Bedford, and Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania; Massillon, Cleveland, Zanesville, Columbus, Dayton, and Cincinnati, in Ohio; Madison and Evansville, in Indiana; Louisville, in Kentucky; and Saline, in Illinois. The gentlemen who accomplished this wonderful mental, mechanical, and electrical feat are Messrs. O'Reilly, of the Atlantic and Lake Telegraph Company, and H. J. Rogers, of the American Telegraph Company, who wished to prove beyond all cavil that the lightning line can be made available for the transmission of large documents as well as for short messages, and we think they have pretty well satisfied the public of their ability to do it. Messrs. Reddish and Hough, of Philadelphia, connected with the O'Reilly line, were detained for the most important part of the duty to be performed, that of writing the entire document in Baltimore. Their arduous task was begun on Tuesday, shortly after the Message came to hand, and at a few minutes before two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon finished their almost Herculean undertaking—at which hour the signature of James K. Polk, and the Washington date, were written as plainly and legibly as the caption had been 24 hours previously. The two operators were at work, relieving each other occasionally, during the entire time, with the exception of a couple of hours, when they were interrupted by a storm at the western end of the line.—*New York Express*

WRECK OF THE "GLENBERVIE" WEST INDIAMAN.

On Saturday morning, the 23d ult., the ship *Glenbervie*, 330 tons register, left Bathurst Basin, Bristol, for the purpose

of proceeding to Newport, there to take in a cargo of coals on a return voyage to the Havannah.

The captain at first took a pilot; but the crew being all his own countrymen, and not very readily understanding English, the pilot said he must have an assistant. The captain refused to comply, and the pilot, accordingly, would not undertake the charge of the vessel; when the captain told him that he might go ashore, for he (the captain) could manage without him. The pilot then left; but the captain had not got his vessel much below the toll-gate, when she took the mud off Acraman's works, and soon heeled over, losing her masts, and blocking up the navigation. Every effort was made to raise her, but, for a long time, without success; we learn, however, that she has since been raised, and taken into Cumberland Basin to repair.

The charge for an assistant pilot would have been 3s. or 4s.: the expense of raising and repairing the *Glenbervie* will cost, probably, more than as many hundred pounds, to say nothing of the inconvenience and loss of time.

The vessel was grounded on a slip of mud and stones, represented by the dark mass abreast of her. She remained fast, as the tide was falling rapidly; and when the tide had almost left her dry, she fell over; her masts broken off by contact with the opposite bank of the New Cut. It should be observed that she ought not to have been taken down this river, or rather the New Cut—which is not the usual channel for large vessels, but for coasters and small craft only.

ANCIENT FONT IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, TAUNTON.

This curious baptismal vessel, after having been for many years half hidden in a recess in the wall of the south-west corner of St. James's Church, at Taunton, has just been removed to be placed in a position in which its sculptural enrichment is seen to proper advantage.

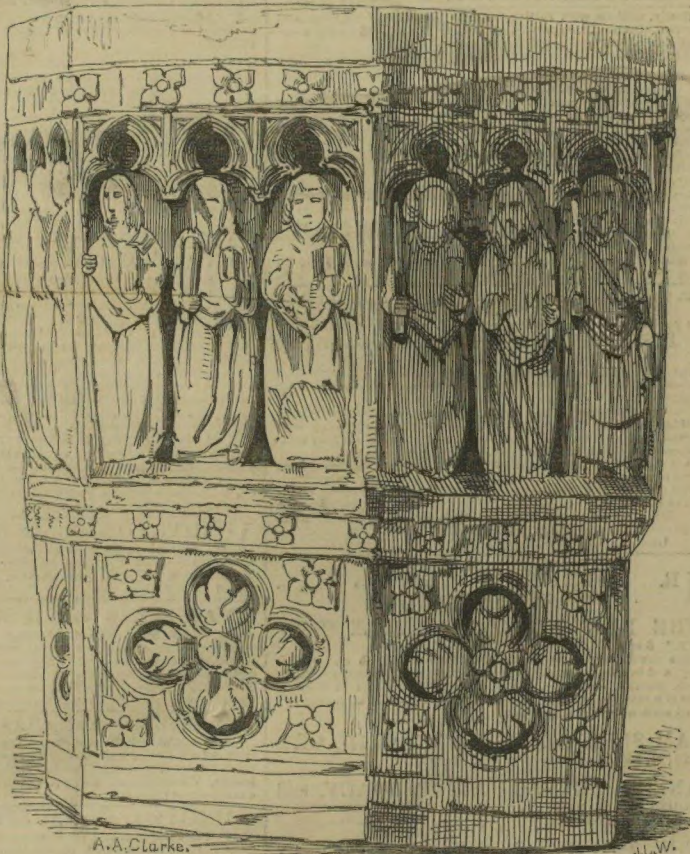
In form this Font is octagonal: it is of Gothic design, and each compartment has canopied niches, filled with statuary. Three of the compartments are so mutilated as not to be deciphered, but these are to be carefully restored after the pattern of the other five, which are in very fair preservation. The massive pedestal that supports the basin is also octagonal, and is decorated with boldly-sculptured quatrefoils; and in the centre of each is a boss. The rim of the basin (above the figures) is ornamented with a row of quatrefoils. The base or steps no longer remain.

If we except the hexagonal form, the octagonal is the most usual in which fonts occur: the latter is the most appropriate, as well as the most beautiful. It is symbolical, according to the ancient method of spiritualizing numbers, of the new birth in baptism; the seven days creation of the natural world being symbolised by the number 7, and the new creation by Christ by the number 8, in allusion to the eighth day on which He rose again from the dead.

The Font is evidently of the same age as the church, which was built in the 13th century. Two of the figures on the Font correspond with the remaining two in the niches of the tower, which are supposed to be St. Peter and St. Paul, or St. Peter and St. James. Very accurate drawings of the Font and its incidental ornaments have been made by Mr. A. A. Clarke, the clever artist, of Taunton, who has obligingly forwarded the Sketch whence the annexed representation has been engraved.

We hope to hear of this fine Gothic relic being perfectly restored, and placed upon steps in its fitting place, near the principal entrance of the church. The Font has been very badly treated, not so much by the Puritans of old as by the apathists of modern days, who have suffered the vessel to be much mutilated in its various shiftings: at one period it was placed near the altar, next under the organ gallery, and then, as if it took up too much room for the great pews, it was thrust back into the south-west corner of the church, in a deep recess in the wall. A better taste has, however, been shown of late among the parishioners, an enlightened few having taken up the restoration of the Font, which we hope will be efficiently executed.

The figures can with care be deciphered. The figure of Saint James the



ANCIENT FONT AT TAUNTON.

Greater appears with staff and scrip, on the right hand of the Sketch, and corresponds with a figure of St. James, the patron Saint of the church, which remains in a niche in the tower. Figures of St. Bartholomew, St. James the Less, and St. Thomas, likewise appear in the portion of the Font shown in the Sketch. Upon one of the panels or faces is sculptured the Crucifixion; but it is much defaced. St. James's was originally the conventual church of the priory of the order of St. Augustine; but the only or principal portion remaining of the ancient structure is the square tower, to which we have referred.

THE WEATHER.

The weather, during the latter part of the week, has been severe; the direction of the wind has been E., and the average temperature has been below that of the season. The following are some particulars of each day:—Thursday, the sky was partially clear during the day, and overcast at other times; the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature of the air was 40°. Friday, the sky was overcast, the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature was 39°. Saturday, the sky was mostly overcast during the day, and it was cloudless at night; a thin rain was falling in the evening; the direction of the wind was N., and the average temperature was 36°. Sunday, the sky was overcast; the direction of the wind was N.E., and the average temperature was 36°. Monday, January 1, 1849, the sky was overcast till late in the evening, the direction of the wind was E., the day was very cold; the average temperature of the air was 31°. Tuesday, the sky was cloudless, the direction of the wind was E., the air was very cold; its average value was 26°. Wednesday, the sky was nearly cloudless till the evening; at night it was overcast; the temperature of the air was low all day, and did not exceed 27° till towards 8 p.m., when it increased to 30°; the average value for the day was 25°, and that for the week ending this day was 33°.

The following are the extreme thermometrical readings of each day:—

Thursday, Dec. 26	the highest during the day was 44 deg., and the lowest was 37 deg.
Friday, Dec. 29	..... 42 37
Saturday, Dec. 30	..... 40 34
Sunday, Dec. 31	..... 40 32
Monday, Jan. 1, 1849.	..... 33 30
Tuesday, Jan. 2 32 26
Wednesday, Jan. 3 30 25

Blackheath, Thursday, January 4th, 1849.

J. G.

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WRECK OF THE "GLENBERVIE," WEST INDIAMAN AT BRISTOL.